



Clinical Image

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Unusual Ear Mass

Anita Jeyakumar^{1*} and Matthew Keisling²

¹Department of Otolaryngology, Akron Children's Hospital 215 W Bowery St, Ste 3210, Akron, Ohio, USA

²Department of Pathology, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron, Ohio, USA

*Corresponding author: Anita Jeyakumar, Department of Otolaryngology, Akron Children's Hospital 215 W Bowery St, Ste 3210, Akron, OH 44308, USA, Tel: 330-543-4930, Fax: 330-543-4931, E-mail: ajeyakumar@akronchildrens.org

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About the Study

17 year old female with a history of stage IVS neuroblastoma diagnosed at the age of 4 months. She received cis-retinoic acid post radiation and completed all therapy at the age of 4 years.

During a routine audio logic visit, she was noted to have a mass in her right ear (Figure 1). A CT scan was done which showed a small homogenous well circumscribed mass in the left external auditory canal (Figure 2). The mass was biopsied in both left and right ear and the pathology is shown in Figure 3, with a diagnosis of a Schwannoma.

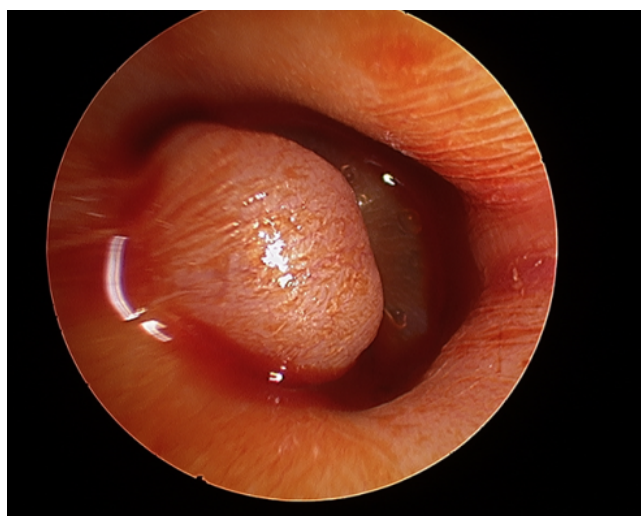


Figure 1: Endoscopic view of a well circumscribed mass located in the external auditory canal.

Schwannomas are slow-growing benign tumors. In the head and neck region, Schwannomas most commonly appear as acoustic neuroma (25–45%) [1]. Schwannomas are rarely diagnosed in the external auditory meatus but there have been a few reports in the literature [2-6]. The differential diagnosis includes other soft tissue neoplasms: fibroma, chondroma, and leiomyoma. The mass was treated by complete surgical excision.



Figure 2: Axial CT scan showing a well circumscribed homogenous mass located lateral to the tympanic membrane.

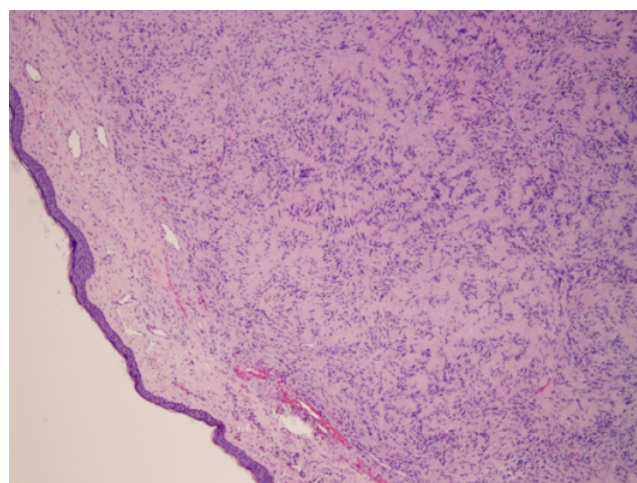


Figure 3: H&E stain, 4x magnification, Squamous epithelium overlying a well-circumscribed biphasic tumor with nuclear palisading pattern, and contrasting hypercellular and hypocellular Antoni areas. The individual cells show eosinophilic cytoplasm with wavy elongated cytology consistent with Schwannian origin; without evidence of significant atypia.

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