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Granulocytic sarcoma of the choroid plexus complicating acute leukemia

A 38-year old patient with type 5 acute myeloid leukemia relapsed after four years of treatment including chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant. He underwent imaging for vertigo, with an otherwise normal neurological examination.

Brain MRI showed diffuse choroid plexus enlargement, without hydrocephalus, a rare typical image of granulocytic sarcoma (figure A)¹.

The patient also had spine MRI, to explore right L5 radiculopathy, which showed signs of meningitis with radicular and diffuse epidural enhancement (figure B).

Granulocytic sarcoma, or chloroma, is a tumor composed of immature granulocytes, associated with systemic leukemia, usually acute myelogenous leukemia. Common locations are soft tissues, bone, peritoneum and lymph nodes.

References:

1 Guerhazi A, De Kerviler E, Zagdanski AM, Frija J. Diagnostic imaging of choroid plexus disease. Clin Radiol. 2000;55(7):503-516.

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Figure A: Brain MRI showing granulocytic sarcoma of the choroid plexus

Brain MRI showing gadolinium-enhanced T1 sequences and T2. Choroid plexuses are diffusely enlarged (arrows), without hydrocephalus. Note that there is no associated meningeal lesion.*

Figure B: Lumbar MRI showing signs of neoplastic meningitis

Lumbar MRI showing epidural infiltration in the cauda equina (green arrow) and enlargement with enhancement of L5 (red arrows).