

4th International Conference on

Neurodegenerative Disorders and Stroke

July 05-06, 2017 Frankfurt, Germany



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Management of pediatric brain tumors, strategies and long term outcome

Objective: This study is aimed at shedding the lights on different patterns of presentation of Sudanese children with brain tumors and reflecting the experience of the national center for neurological sciences in setting strategies for management together with long-term follow up over 14 years period.

Material-Methods: Retrospective, observational study for all Sudanese children with brain tumors operated in the National Center for Neurological Sciences in the period between September 2000 to March 2015. Data were collected and patients were followed throughout the entire 14.5 years study period. All patients with deficient clinical pre and post-operative data, patients with missed operative details, patients with missed histopathology reports and adult patients were all excluded from the study.

Results: During this 174 months period, 54 patients were operated aging between 1-17 years with average presentation at 9 years of age. M:F 2:1. The commonest presenting symptoms are headache (90.7%), back pain (81.3%), vomiting (59.3%) and unsteady gate (48.1%). The average duration of symptoms was 1 year. Most patients were operated through posterior fossa craniectomy (n=30/54, 55.9%) and histopathology reports were mainly medulloblastoma (n=15/54, 27.8%) and pilocytic astrocytoma (n=11/54, 20.4%). Most patients improved or cured post-operatively (n=43/54, 79.7%) 1 deteriorated and 9 died.

Conclusions: Pediatric brain tumors are among the most challenging neurosurgical problems that needs stepwise multidisciplinary team. The lesions tend to be infratentorial with obstructive hydrocephalus. In our center it is found that 2 steps surgery first with VP shunt followed by second stage tumor resection after few weeks is both effective and safe way with apparently good outcome.

Biography

Abubakr Darrag Salim has completed his primary medical school at Ain Shams university in Cairo Egypt in 1986 then he obtained MD in clinical surgery from Khartoum University in Sudan in 1997 Then he obtained MD in Neurosurgery from Sudan medical specialisation board in Sudan in 2003 he was then offered Honor MD in Neurosurgery from the same board in 2013, he is practising neurosurgery in Khartoum Sudan at Mawada and Alyaa hospital and he is the president of the advisory board of neuroscience of federal ministry of health in Sudan and member of the Neurosurgical board of Sudan medical specialisation board. He has published more than 8 papers and has presented more than 50 papers in local regional and international conferences

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