

Multiple hypertrophied mucosal lesions in a young woman

Multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2B (MEN 2B) syndrome

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A 16-year-old girl with history of hypertension was referred to the surgery department due to multiple hypertrophied lesions in both lips and on the lateral sides of the tongue. The lesions have been appeared gradually within the last year and only issued as a cosmetic concern.

KEYWORDS

Multiple endocrine neoplasia, MEN 2B, Neuroma, Pheochromocytoma, Paraganglioma, Tongue lesion, Marfanoid features, Medullary thyroid carcinoma, MTC, Proportionate short stature, intestinal ganglioneuromatosis

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1. Which one could not be considered as the differential diagnosis of the patient?

- a. neurofibroma
- b. neurilemoma
- c. Leukoplakia
- d. Neuroma

Correct answer:

C. This figure demonstrates enlarged lip and hypertrophied tongue lesions which can be seen in neurofibroma, traumatic neuroma, neurilemoma, granular cell tumor, and neuroma; the net diagnosis is made by microscopic examination of a tissue biopsy. Leucoplakia as it is understood by its name is a white plaque with wide range of differential diagnosis; trauma, lichen planus, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), leukoedema, and malignancy.

On retrograde history taking, the patient had a total thyroidectomy due to medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) two years ago and right adrenalectomy due to pheochromocytoma last year.

2. What would be the most probable diagnosis?

- a. Neurofibromatosis type 1
- b. MEN 2A syndrome
- c. MEN 2B syndrome
- d. MEN 1 syndrome

Correct answer:

C. The classic combination of the mucosal neuroma, MTC, and pheochromocytoma together define the multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2B (MEN 2B). Patients with MEN 2B syndrome also might have marfanoid features. In Neurofibromatosis type 1, neurofibromas, multiple café- au- lait spots, iris hamartomas, skeletal abnormalities, glioma, and cognitive disorders are expected. MEN 2A is identical with MEN 2B but instead of marfanoid features and neuromas, parathyroid hyperplasia is seen. MEN 1 syndrome is characterized by pituitary adenoma, parathyroid hyperplasia, and pancreatic tumor.

Due to the high fatality of MTC, early detection of MEN 2B cases and prophylactic thyroidectomy is of great importance and clinical suspicion to MEN 2B by non- endocrinologic features is critical in patients [1]. Currently, growing evidence is affecting our mindset about the clinical picture of MEN 2B syndrome. While MEN 2B patients are classically considered to be tall with marfanoid features, current studies report pediatric patients with proportionate short stature [1]. It is also highlightable that intestinal ganglioneuromatosis associated with MEN 2B, should be considered in the differential diagnosis of Hirschsprung’s disease in children with constipation during early infancy [2, 3].

Ethical consideration

Informed consent about using the patient’s photos and clinical data for educational and research purposes is obtained from her parents and the process is approved by a medical ethics consultation.

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