

A Very Rare Presentation of A Common Disease

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Background:

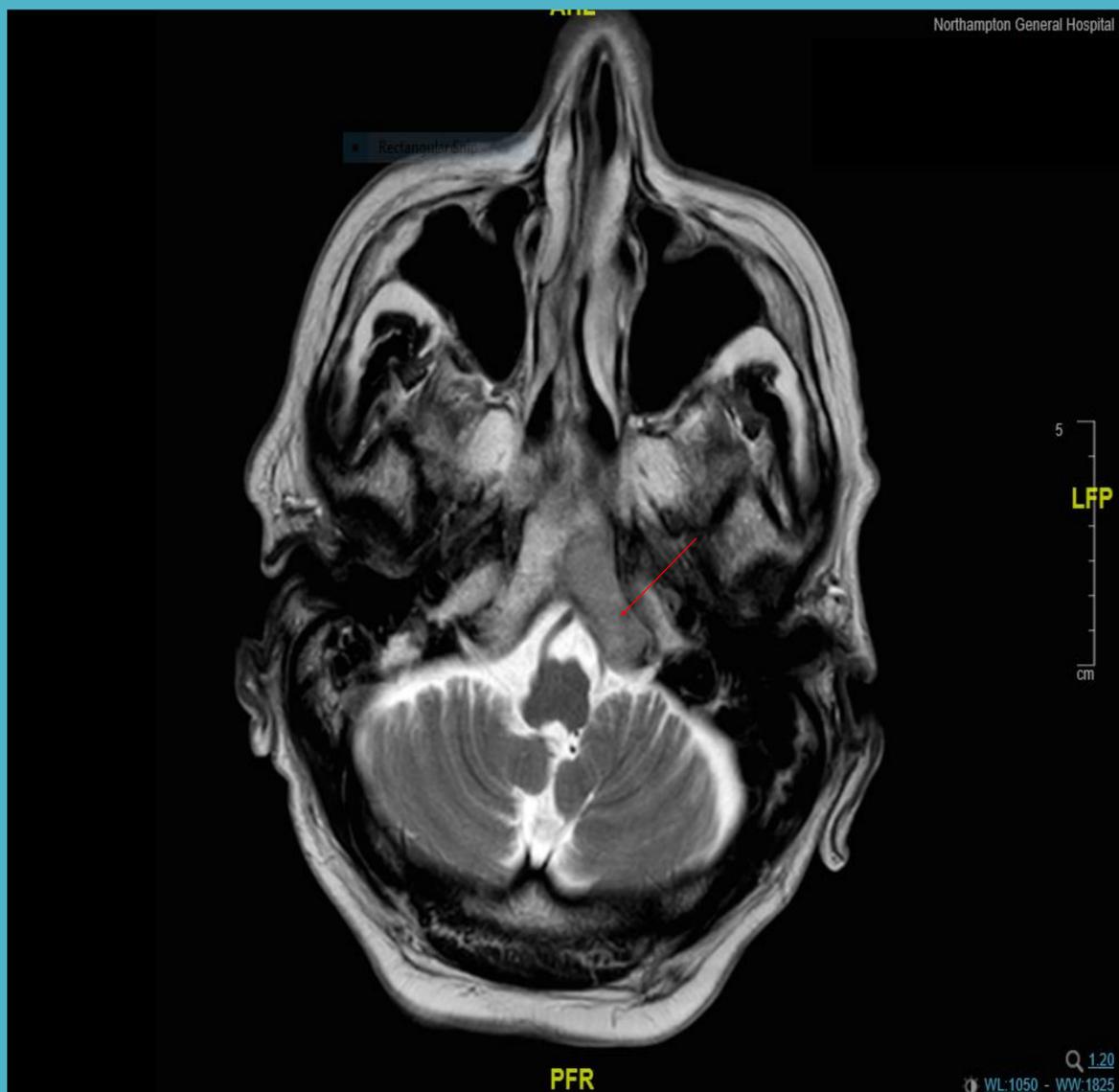
- Myeloma is a haematological malignancy due to abnormal proliferation of plasma or lymphoplasmacytic cells¹. Features of this disease include bone pain, anaemia, hypercalcemia, renal failure and an increased risk of infections². Myeloma is characterized by multiple destructive lytic lesions of the skeleton predominantly involving vertebral column, ribs, skull, pelvis and femoral bones³.
- We report a case of an incidental diagnosis of myeloma following a brain CT scan done in a patient that presented with stroke.

Case summary:

- A 96 years old man presented with left arm weakness upon waking up in the morning. He was diagnosed and managed as right lacunar anterior ischemic stroke. CT brain done at presentation, showed left Clivus lytic lesion.
- This finding led to further investigations which included brain MRI, CT Chest, Abdomen and Pelvis. Tumor markers and myeloma screen were also completed. MRI brain confirmed right basal ganglia infarct and lytic lesion as reported earlier (see image).
- CT Chest Abdomen and Pelvis did not show any evidence of malignancy or metastasis. The myeloma screen revealed elevated light chains with raised B-2 microglobulin while tumour markers were unremarkable.

Management:

- He was managed with two short courses of dexamethasone which showed reduction in serum free light chains by almost half. Patient is currently being followed up by Stroke and Haematology team. He remained symptom free after steroid treatment.



Conclusion:

- Myeloma can be asymptomatic and remain as an incidental finding. Though osteolytic lesions are common in myeloma, here we present the destruction of unilateral clivus as the only destructive presentation of myeloma.
- Practitioners should consider myeloma as a differential even when osteolysis is seen in rare bony structures.

References:

1. Oxford handbook of clinical medicine 10th edition page 368
- 2..S. Vincent Rajkumar, Am J Hematol. 2016;91(7):719-734. doi:10.1002/ajh.24402
3. Dhaval Shah (MD0, Medscape, multiple myeloma clinical presentation



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