

A rare giant paediatric aneurysmal bone cyst in the paranasal sinus

A 3-year-old girl presented to the authors having suffered from nasal obstruction and swelling of the right medial canthus with progressive proptosis of the right eye for 1 month.

Computed tomography showed an expansile cystic lesion destroying the middle and posterior parts of the nasal septum, and occupying and extending into the right ethmoid sinus and sphenoid sinus, with adjacent bony destructions and skull base bone discontinuity (Figure 1a). The maximum cross-sectional area was 4.8×3.7 cm². Magnetic resonance imaging revealed a cystic mass displaying hypointensity on T1-weighted images but hyperintensity on T2-weighted images (Figure 1b).

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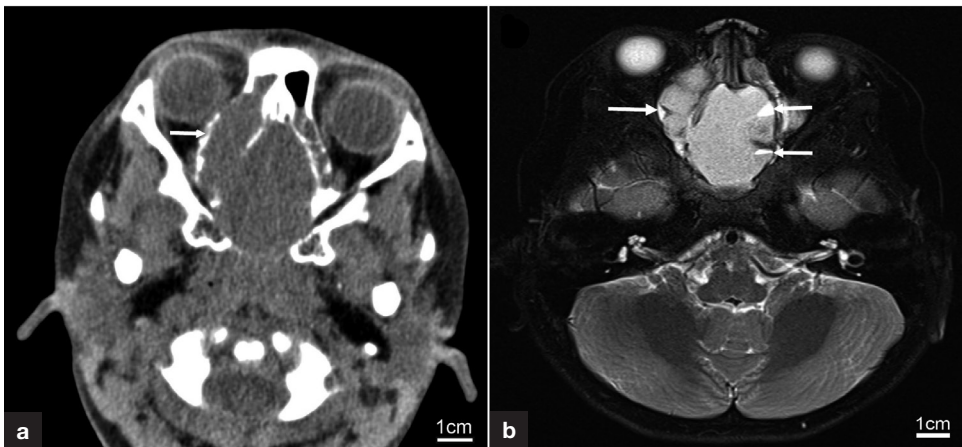


Figure 1. a. Axial computed tomography scan. The mass is seen in the right ethmoid and sphenoid sinuses, squeezing the medial rectus muscle and optic nerve, with papyraceous lamina remodelling (arrow). b. Axial magnetic resonance imaging scan. The lesion was hyperintense in T2-weighted scans, with no typical fluid–fluid level (arrows).

Typical imaging features of aneurysmal bone cysts are multiple fluid–fluid levels on computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging, corresponding to different intensities secondary to haemorrhage (Yang et al, 2012). The imaging in this patient did not show the typical fluid–fluid level, which might be related to the rapid progression of the disease (Suzuki et al, 2001).

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