A Study on Patients with Suspected Schwannoma of the Neck

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In this study, we examined the possibility of definitive diagnosis of schwannoma prior to surgery in patients admitted to our hospital between April 2009 and December 2013. There were 37 cases of suspected schwannoma, of which 11 cases were finally diagnosed as not having schwannoma. Of these 11, 5 cases were diagnosed preoperatively as not having schwannoma and 5 were diagnosed intraoperatively as not having a schwannoma; in the remaining 1 case, the diagnosis was made postoperatively. The results revealed determination of the following as important for the differential diagnosis: clinical course (rate of growth of the tumor), tumor mobility (pain and hardness), MRI findings (tumor location and shape, and presence/absence of contrast enhancement), ultrasound findings (tumor blood vessel distribution), and findings on fine-needle aspiration cytology. If all of these fundamental findings are reconfirmed during the initial examination of referred patients, we believe that a definitive diagnosis may be made in many cases.

Keywords : schwannoma, diagnosis, cervical tumor

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