A Case of Schwannoma of the Chorda Tympani with Facial Palsy

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We report herein on a rare case of schwannoma of the chorda tympani with facial palsy. A 34-year-old woman was referred to our hospital because of right facial palsy which was resistant to steroid intervention and anti-viral drugs. In the physical examination, a white mass was observed in the posterior superior quadrant of the tympanic membrane and the facial palsy score was 0/40. Computed tomography revealed a tumor in the right chorda tympani, extending from the branch of facial nerve to the malleus. Based on the physical, physiological and imaging tests, the patient was diagnosed as having a tumor of the right chorda tympani with facial palsy. For the purpose of resection and definitive diagnosis of the tumor, a surgical intervention was performed. Histologically the tumor was diagnosed as a schwannoma, and immunohistochemically the tumor cells were positive for S-100. After surgery, the patient's facial palsy completely resolved in six weeks. There has been no finding of recurrence two years after surgery.

Keywords : schwannoma, chorda tympani, facial palsy

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Temporal bone computed tomography

upper: The right chorda tympani is bulging as compared to that on the contralateral side.

lower (arrow, chorda tympani; arrowhead, facial nerve): The neural tube in the temporal bone is expanding.

Surgical findings (* chorda tympani, ** facial nerve trunk)

The chorda tympani is edematous, and slightly reddish in color as compared with the trunk of the facial nerve.