Laryngeal Neurofibroma: A Case Report

Katherine Fedder, MD; Delaney Carpenter, MD
UVA Health

Objectives:

Laryngeal neurofibromas are extremely rare and account for only 0.03-0.1% of all benign laryngeal tumors. The majority of these cases are reported in the pediatric population, primarily in patients with neurofibromatosis-1 (NF-1), and less frequently in those with NF-2. In this case report, we present the imaging, surgical, and pathological findings of laryngeal neurofibroma in an adult male with NF-1, followed by a literature review.

Materials and Methods:

We report the case of a 59-year-old-male with a 20 pack year smoking history who presented with 6 months of progressive throat tightness and pain. Physical exam was notable for numerous subcutaneous soft masses over his scalp, face, and extremities, and laryngoscopy showed a submucosal mass of the right false vocal fold and arytenoid with normal vocal fold mobility. CT neck showed marked asymmetric thickening of the right AE fold and false vocal fold. Recommendation was for direct laryngoscopy and biopsy.

Results:

Intraoperatively, we noted a submucosal mass of the right anterior false vocal fold without mucosal changes or ulceration, and multiple biopsies were taken. Final pathology returned as neurofibroma, supported by strongly positive immunohistochemistry staining for S100. Given lack of airway compromise, dysphagia, and dysphonia, complete resection was not pursued.

Conclusions:

This report describes a case of laryngeal neurofibroma in an adult patient with neurofibromatosis-1, a rare entity among benign laryngeal tumors.