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Multifocal Meningioangiomas: A Report of Two Cases

Man Soo Park, Dae Chul Suh, Woo Suk Choi, Sang Youl Lee, and Gil Hyun Kang

Summary: We report the CT and MR findings in two patients with multifocal meningioangiomas, neither of whom had a family history or stigmata of neurofibromatosis. All lesions were located in the cortical and subcortical areas and had round dense calcifications with eccentric cysts. The masses were associated with surrounding edema and gliosis.

Meningioangiomas is a rare, benign hamartomatous lesion found in the cerebral cortex and leptomeninges (1). Grossly and microscopically, it is characterized by cortical meningovascular proliferation and leptomeningeal calcification (2). Its pathogenesis has not been established; however, it is known to be associated with neurofibromatosis (NF) in nearly 50% of reported cases (3). In most reported cases, the mass lesion is solitary, although multiple lesions have occasionally been described. To our knowledge, though, multiple lesions with accompanying eccentric cysts have not been described on CT or MR studies. Accurate diagnosis of meningioangiomas is important because it is a benign, surgically correctable cause of seizures.

We report two cases of multifocal meningioangiomas.

Case Reports

Case 1

A 47-year-old woman had a 5-year history of headaches and generalized seizures. Precontrast CT scans showed multiple round calcified masses and eccentric cysts with edema in the left frontoparietal and right parietal lobes (Fig 1A and B). On T1-weighted MR images, the cyst was nearly isointense with CSF (Fig 1C). Proton density—and T2-weighted images revealed areas of dark signal intensity surrounded by areas of high signal intensity (Fig 1D and E). The central areas of dark signal intensity corresponded to the calcifications seen on CT scans. No significant mass effect was demonstrated. The patient underwent a left parietal craniotomy, and a calcified mass with cyst was totally removed; however, a small calcified mass

in the right parietal lobe was not removed. There was no invasion of the overlying dura. The calcified mass was present in the cerebral cortex, and a cystic cavity was found in the subarachnoid space. Pathologic examination of the resected specimen showed multiple fragments of firm, whitish, calcified tissue, measuring $2.0 \times 1.0 \times 1.0$ cm and $0.2 \times 0.1 \times 0.1$ cm, respectively. Microscopically, the lesions consisted of extensive fibrillary calcification and proliferating vessels surrounded by meningothelial cells (Fig 1F). The patient has been free of seizures and headaches for the 15 months since surgery.

Case 2

A 53-year-old man had a 2-year history of generalized seizures and headaches. Precontrast CT scans revealed dense round calcifications with eccentric cysts surrounded by edema in the left frontal and parietal lobes (Fig 2A). MR images of the brain showed heterogeneous areas of hypointense and isointense signal in the left frontal and parietal lobes on T1-weighted sequences (Fig 2B). The lesions showed irregular enhancement on contrast-enhanced T1-weighted images (Fig 2C and D). T2-weighted images revealed marked hypointensity corresponding to calcification and also revealed high signal intensity corresponding to cyst and edema (Fig 2E). The patient underwent left frontal and parietal craniotomies, and the calcified masses with cysts were totally removed. There was no involvement of the overlying dura. The calcified mass was located in the cerebral cortex and the cyst was in the subarachnoid space. The tumors were well demarcated, firm, whitish, and calcified. Microscopically, the lesions consisted of extensive fibrillary calcification and proliferating vessels surrounded by meningothelial cells. The patient has remained free of seizures and headaches during the 7 months since surgery.

Discussion

Meningioangiomas is a rare benign disorder characterized by the hallmarks of meningioma and angioma (4). It is a very slow-growing tumor (5) whose features have previously been reported (1-25). Meningioangiomas was first described by Basso and Nuzum in 1915 (6) as an incidental autopsy finding in a 15-year old boy; it was named by Worster-Drought et al in 1937 (1). Meningioangiomas primarily affects children and young adults, and seizures and/or headaches are the most common symptoms (2). It is associated with NF in nearly 50% of reported cases (3). A review of the literature suggests that meningioangiomas is strongly associated with NF2 rather than NF1 (7, 8).

Though its pathogenesis is unknown, three possible theories have been suggested (9): first, these lesions could represent a hamartoma; second, they could result from direct invasion of the brain tissue by a leptomeningeal meningioma; and third, they

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From the Departments of Radiology (M.S.P., D.C.S.), Neurosurgery (S.Y.L.), and Pathology (G.H.K.), School of Medicine, Ulsan University; and the Department of Radiology, School of Medicine, Kyung Hee University (W.S.C.), Kangwon-Do, Korea.

Address reprint requests to Man-Soo Park, MD, Department of Radiology, Kang Nung Hospital, 415, Bangdong-Ri, Sachon-Myon, Kangnung-Si, Kangwon-Do, 210-850, Korea.

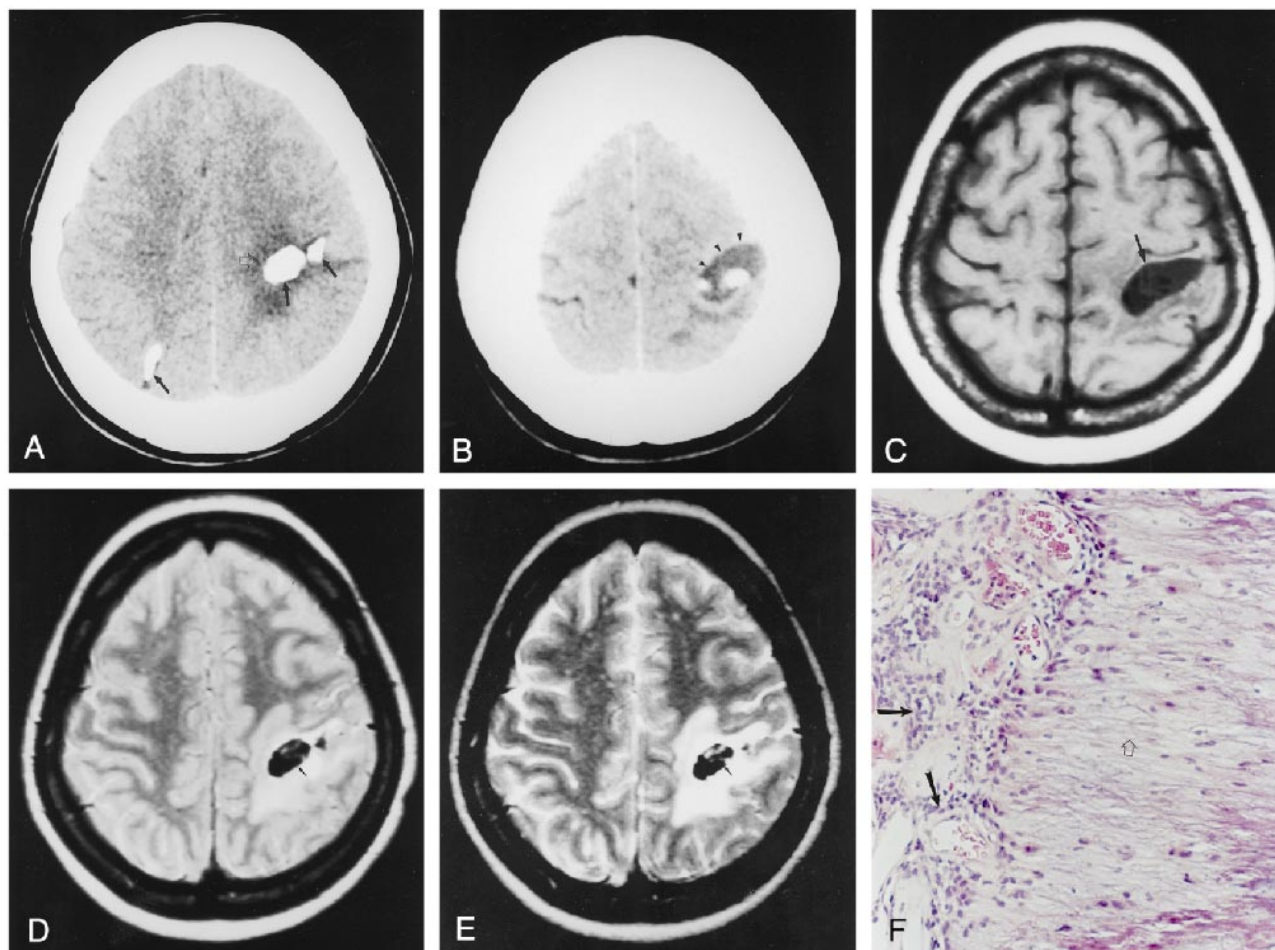


FIG 1. Case 1: 47-year-old woman.

A and B, Noncontrast CT scans show multiple round calcifications (solid arrows) and eccentric cysts (arrowheads) with moderate edema in the left frontoparietal (open arrow) and right parietal lobes.

C, On T1-weighted MR image (420/14/2 [TR/TE/excitations]), the cyst (arrow) is isointense with CSF; subtle, mottled dark signal intensity is also noted.

D and E, On proton density-weighted (2600/22/2) (D) and T2-weighted (2600/90/2) (E) images, the lesions have high signal intensity with central areas of low signal intensity (arrows).

F, Histopathologic specimen shows proliferating blood vessels surrounded by meningotheial cells (closed arrows) and fibrillary calcification (open arrow) (hematoxylin-eosin, original magnification $\times 100$). This specimen was obtained from the cortex of the left parietal lobe.

could represent a vascular malformation. Characteristics of meningioangiomas are leptomeningeal calcification and meningovascular proliferation interwoven with bands of fibrous connective tissue (10). The pathologic criteria for meningioangiomas may be summarized as follows: leptomeningeal proliferations of nodules, whorls, or bands of meningotheial cells (ie, arachnoidal cap cells exhibiting marked degenerative reactions, such as calcification, fibrocartilage, or bone formation) in association with sharply demarcated intracortical plaques of proliferating small vessels and perivascular cuffs of spindle-shaped fibroblast-like cells (4). The calcification patterns vary from faint psammomatous calcification to dense osteoid (5). Meningioangiomas affects the cerebral cortex in 90% of cases and usually occurs in the frontal or temporal lobes, but is rarely founded in the third ventricle, thalamus, cerebral peduncles (2), or

brain stem (11). An association with meningioma or oligodendroglioma has occasionally been reported (12, 13).

Although multifocal cerebral lesions have been reported, meningioangiomas usually consists of well-demarcated solitary lesions (2, 14). Multifocal lesions or masses associated with cysts have not been described on either CT or MR studies. Our two patients with multifocal meningioangiomas were older than those in most reported cases and had no stigmata or family history of NF. On CT and MR examinations, the masses were composed mainly of dense round calcification and the cysts were eccentric to the mass. At surgery, the lesions were well demarcated and located superficially. Two lesions showed multiple calcifications with eccentric tumoral cysts. Cysts were also present in the subarachnoid spaces. It could be suggested that the mechanism of extratumoral cyst formation is

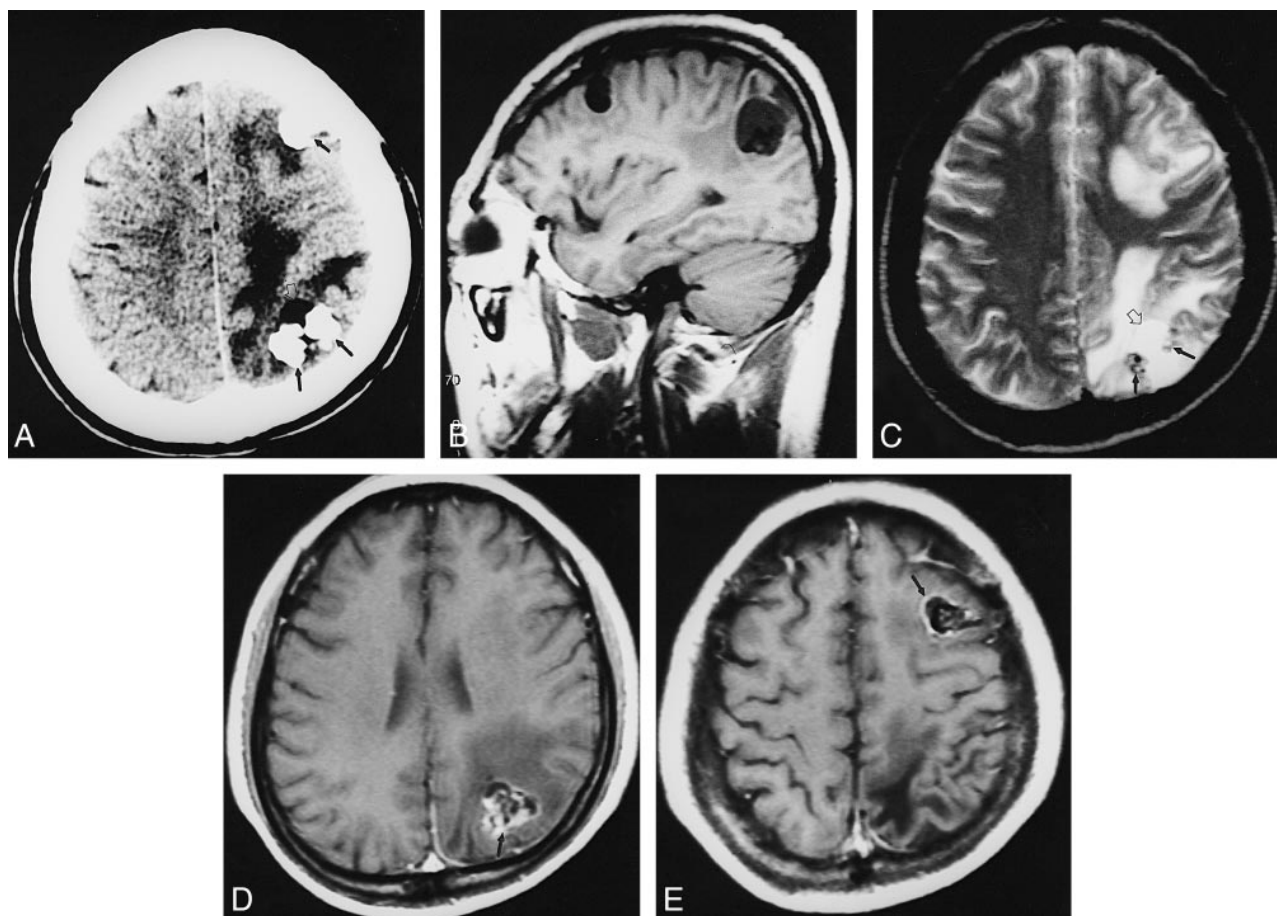


FIG 2. Case 2: 53-year-old man.

A, Noncontrast CT scan reveals multiple round calcifications (*closed arrows*) with eccentric cysts (*open arrow*) and moderate edema. B, On T1-weighted image (420/14/2), the lesions show inhomogeneous hypo- and intermediate signal intensity in the left frontal and parietal lobes.

C, On T2-weighted image (2600/90/2), areas of heterogeneous signal intensity were noted in the left frontal and parietal lobes, caused by calcification (*closed arrows*), cyst (*open arrow*), and edema.

D and E, On contrast-enhanced T1-weighted image (420/14/2), the lesions show irregular enhancement (*arrows*).

the same as that of cystic meningioma, in which the cyst may form as the result of a ball-valve mechanism with the gradual accumulation of CSF in several sulci between the tumor and brain parenchyma (15).

Meningioangiomas is a benign lesion that does not become malignant (5). Its accurate diagnosis is important because total surgical removal is the treatment of choice, and the prognosis after surgery is excellent in most cases. The differential diagnosis of radiologic images (10, 25) includes meningioma, oligodendroglioma, granulomatous meningitis, and parasitic diseases.

Conclusion

Meningioangiomas is a benign cerebral lesion characterized by leptomeningeal calcification and meningovascular proliferation. It exhibits peripheral edema or gliosis on CT and MR imaging studies. It usually manifests as a solitary lesion; however, as we report, multifocal lesions or masses associated with cyst formation may be present.

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