

## Facial Mass Impending the Visual Axis: A Case Report about a Congenital Frontonasal Meningoencephalocele

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### Abstract

### Case Report

Meningocele is a hernial protrusion of part of meninges and neural elements in a sac. It is a rare medical condition particularly the facial form. A full-term female baby was brought to our office for congenital facial mass. The mass was diagnosed as a frontonasal meningoencephalocele.

**Keywords:** Facial mass, visual axis, meningoencephalocele.

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## INTRODUCTION

Congenital midline facial masses are rare malformations, occurring with an incidence of one case in 20 to 40,000 births [1]. We report a case of frontonasal meningoencephalocele in a three-day-old infant.

## CASE REPORT

It was a newborn female weighing 3,200 g, in whom we found a soft frontonasal mass measuring 60 mm long slightly compressing the left eye (fig 1). The child proceeded from a normal delivery where two prenatal consultations were done. The 27-year-old primiparous mother with no specific history did not undergo ultrasound exam during her pregnancy. The ophthalmic examination found a slight obstruction of the left palpebral slant. He was cyanotic and was resuscitated at birth. Orbito-cerebral computed tomography (CT) confirmed a frontal meningoencephalocele (fig 2).



Fig-1: Photograph of the child child



Fig-2: CT-Scan of the child

## DISCUSSION

The meningoencephaloceles are congenital anomalies characterized by a hernia of the meninges and the cerebral parenchyma out of the cranial box through a bone defect [1, 2].

Njamnshi *et al.* [3] reported in Cameroon, an incidence of 2 cases per 1000 births against 0.95 per 1000 births found by Ugwu RO *et al.* [4] in Nigeria. They are occipital in 75% of the cases and involve the midline in 90% of the cases [1].

Etiologically, the real cause of these anomalies is not known with certainty. Environmental teratogens, hyperthermia during pregnancy, low economic status, and nutritional status are suspected [5, 6].

In 60% [7] there is an association of chromosomal abnormalities or craniofacial malformations. Mbassi *et al.* reported an association with hydrocephalus [8]. In our case no other malformation was associated.

## CONCLUSION

Rare congenital pathologies, meningoencephaloceles should be suspected in any case of congenital nasal mass of the midline. Brain imaging is critical to confirming the diagnosis.

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