

ANSWERS TO MEDICAL QUIZ

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- A1. About 3 cm x 3 cm x 2.5 cm slightly hyperdense mass is noted in the right parasellar region. There is marked enhancement of the mass on contrast injection. The mass is rather irregular in shape. The right middle cerebral artery is slightly displaced anteriorly by the mass. There is no evidence of erosion of adjacent bone or hyperostosis. No evidence of extension of the mass into the orbit along the tentorial margin or along the anteromedial aspect of the middle cranial fossa.
- A2. 1. Parasellar meningioma
2. Aneurysm of the cavernous portion of the carotid artery
3. Trigeminal neuroma
- A3. The main differential diagnosis is aneurysm of the cavernous portion of the carotid artery and a parasellar meningioma. Whereas meningioma very often (70-80 %) causes hyperostosis of the adjacent bone, aneurysm is more likely to cause bone destruction. Bone destruction is very rare with meningioma and in fact presence of bone destruction should suggest a diagnosis other than meningioma. In this case, there is neither hyperostosis nor bone erosion or destruction.
- A4. The diagnosis is parasellar meningioma. The enhancement in case of aneurysm without thrombosis within is more intense than that seen in our case, and the mass is irregular and not round favouring a meningioma. Also, faint illdefined hyperdensity of the lesion on non-enhanced scan is consistent with meningioma; the hyperdensity being due to psammomatous bodies. The characteristic calcification of aneurysm on the other hand is linear or curvilinear. Trigeminal neuroma can present as a parasellar mass. It may arise from the root of the 5th nerve or from the trigeminal ganglion. Often, however, it extends along the root and lies both in the parasellar region and the posterior fossa in the region of the petrous apex. If large enough it may erode the petrous apex. Trigeminal neuroma does enhance but not to the degree seen with aneurysm and meningioma. Also calcification is rare. Besides, trigeminal neuroma is a rare tumor and is seen usually in association with neurofibromatosis. The appearance described in these scans is indistinguishable from that of all an infiltrating tumor such as carcinoma, metastasis or lymphoma.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Bahrain Cancer Society Conference will be held during 11-12 November 1997 at the College of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Arabian Gulf University, State of Bahrain. For more details contact: Bahrain Cancer Society, P O Box 1499, Bahrain. Telephone: (0973) 265284. Fax: (0973) 259231.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Workshop will be held on 17 November 1997 at the Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital. More details contact: Department of Postgraduate & Academic Affairs, Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital, P O Box 7897, Riyadh 11159, Saudi Arabia. Tel: (0966-1) 477 7714 Ext. 4933/4937. Fax: (0966-1) 476 0853/478 4057.

V Annual Meeting of the Saudi Gastroenterology Association will be held at King Fahd Hospital of King Faisal University, Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia during the period 19-20 November 1997. For more information contact: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Quorain, P O Box 40001, Al-Khobar 31952, Saudi Arabia. Tel: 0966-3-898 3931. Fax: 0966-3-864 5972.

Symposium on Genetic Diseases in Arab Populations - A Wealth of Information will be held during 23-24 November 1997 at King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. For details contact: The Organizer, Department of Medical Biochemistry & WHO Collaborating Centre or Postgraduate Centre, College of Medicine, King Saud University, P O Box. 2925, Riyadh 11461, Saudi Arabia. Tel: 0966-1-4670831/4671551, Fax: 0966-1-4672575/4811853.

Regional Conference: Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases and the Role of Nutrition organised by the Nutrition Section of the Bahrain Ministry of Health will be held in Bahrain between 24-26 November 1997. For further information contact: Nutrition Section, Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health, P O Box 42, Manama, Bahrain. Tel: (0973) 279218. Fax: (0973) 279253.

I International Saudi-German Microsurgical Course Hands-On and Symposium will be held between 6-11 December 1997 at Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital. Contact Address: Department of Postgraduate & Academic Affairs, Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital, P O Box 7897, Riyadh 11159, Saudi Arabia. Tel: (0966-1) 477 7714 Ext: 4933. Fax: (0966-1) 476 0853 / 478 4057.

Symposium on Interferons and Cytokines: Basic Science and Clinical Aspects will be held between 9-10 December 1997. For more information contact: Academic Affairs and Postgraduate Education, Mail Box Code 36, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, P O Box 3354, Riyadh 11211, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Telephone: 0966-1-442-7238. Fax: 0966-1-442 7237 / 442-4153.