



Introduction

Posterior cranial fossa tumours in children results in morbidity & mortality worldwide. In Sub-saharan Africa delayed diagnostic modalities and lack of awareness of the symptoms and signs is common.

Methods

A retrospective analysis of children treated for posterior fossa tumours between 2009 and 2012.

Results

54 children were treated for posterior fossa tumours between 2009 and 2012. 30 males and 24 females were attended to giving M: F ratio of 1.25:1. The age varied between 1-16 years with a mean of 7.4 years. Cerebellar symptoms were the most common mode of presentation (32%) followed by headaches and vomiting. 30% of our patients were blind at presentation probably due to chronic effects of raised intracranial pressure. Out of 18 patients with histological diagnosis of medulloblastomas, over 90% were females and only 2 were male. Astrocytomas were evenly distributed at 7 males and 9 females. The mean duration of symptoms was 5.4 months while it took 6 weeks between time of diagnosis and treatment.

Conclusions

Posterior cranial fossa tumours in our set- up are more common in males than females. Most cases of medulloblastomas are found among female children. The delay in diagnosis and definitive management is noted probably due to lack of awareness and expensive modalities of management.

Learning Objectives

Posterior fossa tumours in children cause morbidity and mortality and awareness of the clinical presentation, radiologic findings and definitive management options are essential for better care of the affected patients.

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