Multiple scalp epidermoid cysts in a child with Gardner syndrome

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A 12-year-old boy presented with cystic swelling over his scalp. MRI of the brain revealed multiple non-enhancing cystic lesions in the scalp. These cysts were of varying sizes. They appear T1 hypointense (Fig. 1), bright on T2-W images, and show restricted diffusion on diffusion-weighted images (Fig. 2). These findings are characteristic of epidermoid cysts. The boy was known to have Gardner syndrome and had a complete colectomy at the age of 3 years for adenomatous polyposis.

Gardner syndrome is characterized by gastrointestinal polyposis with osteomas, as well as multiple skin and soft-

Fig. 1 T1-W sagittal image

Fig. 2 Axial diffusion-weighted image

tissue tumors, including desmoids and thyroid tumors. Epidermoids are the most common skin manifestation of Gardner syndrome, typically occurring at an earlier age and at multiple sites, including the face, scalp and extremities. Subcutaneous epidermal cysts and intracranial epidermoid cysts are pathologically identical and, likewise, subcutaneous epidermal cysts generally have low ADC (apparent diffusion coefficient) values [1, 2].

References

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