**Grand Rounds**

A 60-year-old woman with an asymptomatic left lacrimal gland mass found incidentally

Sudip D. Thakar, BS, Oded Sagiv, MD, Michael T. Tetzlaff, MD, PhD, Adel El-Naggar, MD, PhD, J. Matthew Debnam, MD, Thomas J. Kandl, MD, and Bita Esmaeli, MD, FACS

Author affiliations: *Orbital Oncology and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery, Department of Plastic Surgery
*a Department of Pathology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston
*b Department of Translational and Molecular Pathology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston
*c Department of Radiology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

**History**

A 60-year-old woman with a history of recurrent, poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma of the left maxillary sinus was referred to the Orbital Oncology Service of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for evaluation and management of a slow growing, asymptomatic left lacrimal gland mass that was incidentally identified on routine surveillance magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The patient denied significant vision changes, diplopia, and pain associated with the lesion.

Other past pertinent oncologic and ophthalmologic history included treatments for the maxillary sinus adenocarcinoma with multiple surgical resections, including a maxillectomy and high-dose radiation of 60 Gy to the nasal cavity and 50 Gy to the right and left neck lymph nodes, and repeated proton beam therapy to the sinonasal region for a local recurrence. The patient’s ocular history was significant for a bilateral dacryocystorhinostomy and left conjunctivodacryocystorhinostomy for nasolacrimal duct blockage and canalicular stenosis secondary to treatments for her sinonasal cancer. Additionally, she was diagnosed with iritis of the right eye 5 months prior to her presentation by her local ophthalmologist that had resolved with topical steroids and was felt to be idiopathic in nature.

**Examination**

On examination, the patient’s visual acuity was 20/25 bilaterally, unchanged from previous visits. Her intraocular pressure was 19 mm Hg in the right eye and 20 mm Hg in the left eye. Her pupils were normal. Her visual fields were intact, and she had full extraocular motility. The eyes were not proptotic, eyelids did not have an S-shaped or other deformity, and the lacrimal gland mass was not readily palpable. Her intraocular examination was unremarkable.

**Ancillary Testing**

MRI demonstrated a hyperintense and well-circumscribed, homogeneously enhancing mass measuring 1.8 × 1.1 × 1.1 cm in the superolateral aspect of the left orbit, suggestive of a lacrimal gland mass (Figure 1). Three years prior her lacrimal gland measured 0.7 × 0.5 × 0.5 cm on MR imaging, indicating slow growth over the previous 3 years.

**Treatment**

Given the concerns for growth of the lacrimal gland mass and the possibility of a metastasis from the patient’s known previously treated recurrent sinonasal carcinoma, the patient underwent a left anterior orbitotomy with total resection of the lacrimal gland mass 2 weeks after this presentation. Gross evaluation of the surgical specimen revealed an encapsulated mass with a homogeneous yellow, tan cut surface (Figure 2). Histo-pathologic analysis of the tumor revealed an encapsulated tumor with a surrounding fibrous capsule (Figure 3A), consisting of a variable density of benign spindle cells with densely cellular areas (Antoni A areas, Figure 3B), including focal Verocay body formation (Figure 3C) juxtaposed with less cellular regions, where the
spindle cells were loosely arranged in a myxoid background with prominent hyalinization of the tumor-associated vessels (Antoni B areas, Figure 3D).

**Differential Diagnosis**

The clinical history and imaging in this patient suggested a benign lacrimal gland epithelial tumor, such as a pleomorphic adenoma (PA), metastatic disease from the patient’s primary adenocarcinoma, adenoid cystic carcinoma, or lacrimal gland lymphoproliferative disease. Among these, the well-circumscribed appearance and reported history of slow growth indicated a benign process. Taken collectively with the histopathologic findings, however, the diagnosis of lacrimal gland schwannoma was supported.

**Diagnosis and Discussion**

We describe a rare case of an asymptomatic lacrimal gland schwannoma detected incidentally on routine imaging. The annual incidence of lacrimal gland tumors is approximately 1 in 1 million, with pleomorphic ade-
the frontal nerve. We postulate that our patient had an extension of her schwannoma from the lacrimal branch of the ophthalmic division of the trigeminal nerve.

Schwannomas classically consist of spindle cells arranged as hypercellular and alternating hypocellular regions known as Antoni A and Antoni B, respectively. This biphasic phenomenon underlies the classic signal heterogeneity on T2-weighted imaging, as demonstrated in Figure 1B. There can also be palisading arrangements of nuclei known as Verocay bodies.

The clinical and radiologic diagnosis of the lacrimal gland tumor in our patient was further hindered by her complex history of an aggressive primary adenocarcinoma of the maxillary sinus and local radiation. Our presumptive diagnosis was a benign epithelial tumor or metastatic disease. The gross specimen after surgical resection had a yellow appearance with a potato-like consistency characteristic of a pleomorphic adenoma. However, it was not until histopathologic assessment that a diagnosis of Schwannoma of the lacrimal gland was made. In addition to nonspecific S100 protein and glial fibrillary acid protein expression in schwannomas, markers such as calretinin, podoplanin, and SOX10 may also be useful in elucidating the diagnosis.

Our case demonstrates that, although rare, schwannoma of the lacrimal gland should be considered on the differential diagnosis of a well-circumscribed lacrimal gland mass. Gross total surgical resection is the appropriate treatment particularly if there are signs of growth or concerns for other more malignant diseases, as was the case in our patient with a history of significant malignant carcinoma of the maxillary sinus.

References