



Case Report

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# Endolymphatic sac tumor (ELST): A rare Radiological case report and review of literature



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## Abstract

An endolymphatic sac tumor (ELST) is a rare indolent but locally aggressive tumor arising in the posterior petrous ridge of temporal bone. which can be encountered sporadically or in Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) diseased. With less than 200 case reported. Although ELST presents benign appearance in histopathology, it can present aggressive destructive behavior in clinical. Treatment for ELST is complete surgical excision. there is still controversy about other treatment, such as radiotherapy and gamma knife surgery. Chemotherapy salvage therapy in trials of neoplasm of associated syndrome has targeted angiogenesis with variable response. We present case of endolymphatic tumor in 62-year-old man. he presented with right -side skull swelling post trauma. Surgical excision was performed, and diagnosis of the endolymphatic sac tumor was made without VHL. Endolymphatic tumor is Lowe grad adenocarcinoma that originate from the endolymphatic sac. the definitive diagnosis requires combination of clinical features, radiological finding and pathological correlation. Discussion: we discuss the radiological features and histopathology of this rare tumor.

**Keywords:** Endolymphatic sac tumor; Radiation therapy; Surgery; Temporal bone; Prognosis; Von Hipp-Lindau

## Introduction

Endolymphatic sac tumor is rare form of benign tumor arising from endolymphatic duct and sac (EDS) [1]. Endolymphatic sac tumors are known to occur more in frequently in patients with VHL diseased, with up to 16 percent of patients with VHL diseased harboring an ELST [2]. Patients with VHL diseased are more likely to have bilateral ELSTs. VHL diseased is autosomal dominate syndrome due to dilation or mutation in the VHL gen located on short arm of chromosome 3 (3p25-p26) [3,4]. The tumor was first identified during sac decompression surgery in 1984 [5]. Because of the rarity of this tumor, it can easily be confused

With other tumors such as:

- Middle ear carcinoma
- Choroid plexus papilloma
- Para ganglioma
- Papillary ependymoma
- Metastatic renal cell carcinoma

Metastatic thyroid papillary carcinoma, kidney, breast and lung

The tumor is unencapsulated, destructive lesion, showing simple, coarse papillae within cystic spaces lined by cells that are low cuboidal to columnar. The neoplastic cell is positive with CK7, CAM5.2, CAIX. While focally positive with S100protien but negative with thyroglobulin, TTF-1, RCC and transthyretin. patients characteristically present with unilateral sensor-ineural hearing loss, tinnitus, otalgia, otorrhea, vertigo, ataxia and facial nerve paresis. Symptom typically progress over a period of several year [6,7].

## Radiological finding

The imaging hallmark of ELST is a retro labyrinthine mas with associated with osseous erosion. CT imaging show tumor with bone destruction. MRI scans of hypo -intensity on both T1 and T2 images with strong post-gadolinium enhancement [8].

### Case Presentation

A 62-years -old man present with a chief complaint of headache and skull swelling post trauma. There was no tinnitus, otalgia, otorrhea, vertigo or facial nerve paralysis. The patient was operated by craniotomy. The whole tumor was removed, fat and fascia lata were used to close the defect and achieve a watertight closure. The muscle was approximated, and the incision was closed in standard fashion (Figure 3).

(Figures 1 and figures 2 & 6) A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan 26/9/2020 showed well defined calvarial mass in left frontoparietal bones measured about 58mmx60x61mm in its maximal. Anterio-posterior, transver & cranio-caudal

dimension respectively, the lesion has large extracranial and intracranial components destruction of the intervening bones forming large skull defect measured about 48x45mm, the lesion appear heterogenous hypointense with multiple hyperintense foci in T1, and hyperintense in T2 weighted, in postcontrast administration, the intracranial component exerting significant mass effect compressing the underlying left frontal lobe with no remarkable ventricular obliteration or midline shifting the possibility of intradiploic calvarial neoplasm in left frontoparietal bones suggestive of dermoid cyst. Post-operative CT scan 18/11/2020 show total removal of the lesion (Figure 4). evidence of smooth liner enhancing dura at surgical bed, no focal recurrence, no collection seen or mass.

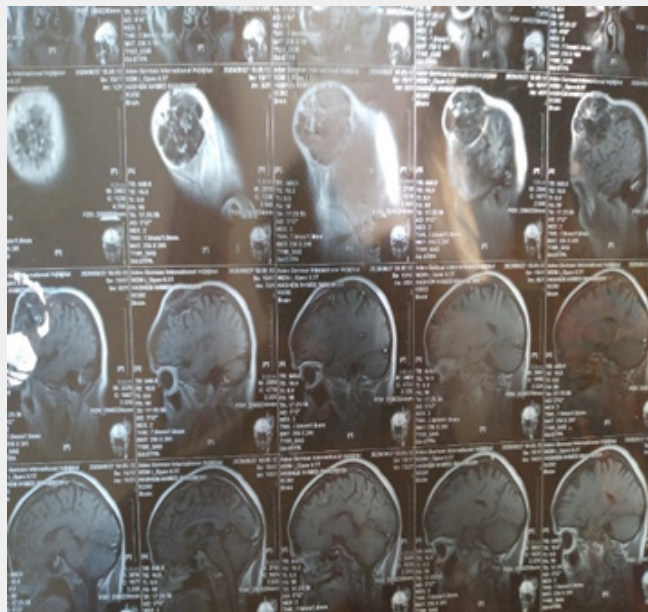


Figure 1: T1-weight sagittal showing large skull defect 48x45mm with multiple hyperintense foci.

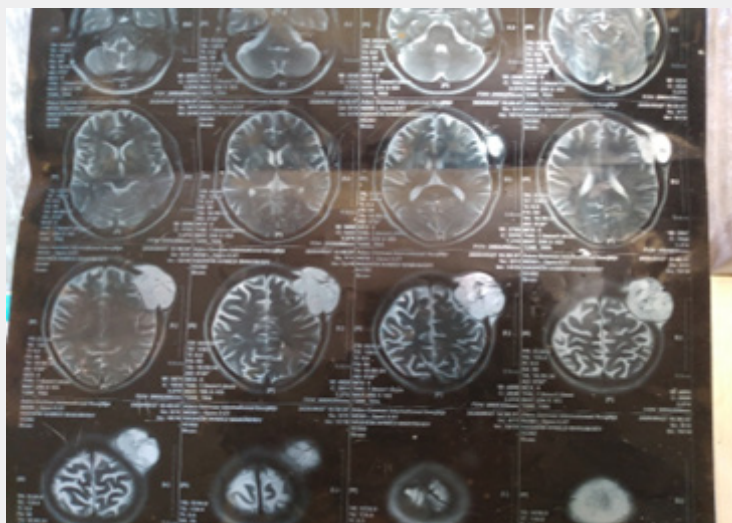


Figure 2: T2- weighted coronal image showing the hyperintense tumor compressing the underlying left frontal lobe.



Figure 3: A 62 year-man old postoperative frontotemporal mass (case of ELST).

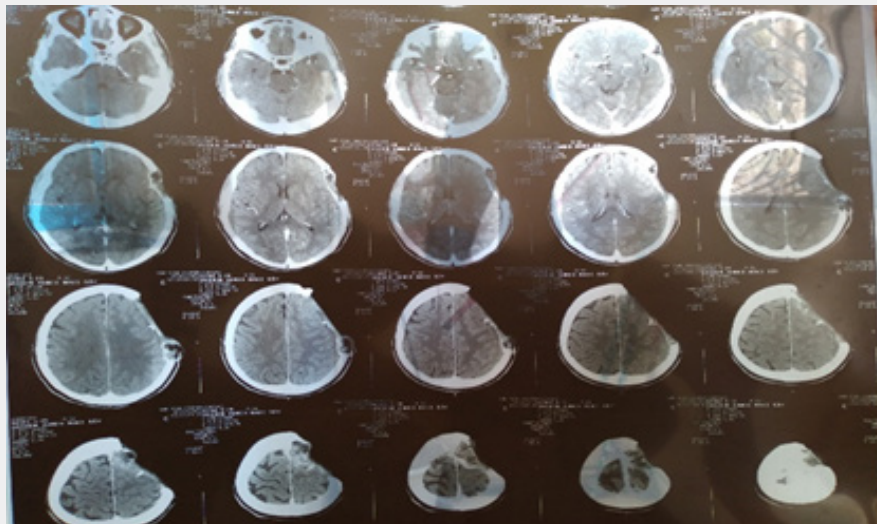


Figure 4: Brain Ct -scan without contrast (post-operative left calvarial lesion evidence of left frontoparietal carinal gap 8x6.5 cm.

### Pathological findings (7/11/2020)

**Gross Description:** 1- A solid -cystic mass with gray-tan outer surface measuring 7x6x2,5 cm. cross sectioning shows multiple cystic spaces separated by white -tan septa and filed with yellowish-red fluid.

2. Apacie of gray-tan tissue measuring 3x3x1.3 cm, along with multiple pieces of gray-tan soft tissue and bone measuring in aggregate 4x4x2cm. representative sections submitted for examination

3. multiple pieces of gray-tan soft tissue and bone measuring in aggerate 6x6x2cm. representative section submitted for examination.

### Micro Description

section show an ill-defined tumor formed of irregular microcystic /tubulocystic structures variably lined by bland to mildly atypical flattened, cuboidal, and columnar cell epitheliums with frequent intraluminal projection and pink secretions surrounded by a fibrous stroma with mild to moderate desmoplastic reaction. The tumor invades the surrounded soft tissue and bone. Recommend radiotherapy and fellow up, in 29/6/2021 evualtion done by Ct scan brain with contrast was showed: large ill defined, lobulated septate cystic lesion with enhanced peripherally and internal septation noted in left frontotemporal region with underline cranial destruction measured about 59x38x60mm in temporal region and second

lobulated lesion measured about 27x40x28 mm in frontal region, these lesions mildly compressed underlie brain parenchymal.

**Cytology Report 17/3/2021 (scalp mass, lumpectomy)**

Macro: two fragment of tissue biopsies the largest 5x4x3 cm and the smallest 4x3x2 cm irregular and brownish. cut section multiple small cysts (spongy like). Micro: microscopic examination reveals large mass formed by multiple irregular space lined by columnar to low cuboidal cells, and some spaces are closely packed and other spaces show vague papillary like growth and these spaces appears separated by fibrous stromal with focal areas of bone metaplasia and all appears surrounded by fragmented mature bone. diagnosis as recurrent Endolymphatic sac tumor.

**7/9/2021 : brain CT scan**

Well-defined heterogenous enhancing structure measure about 29x24 mm seen in the posterior end of the surgical bed of the fronto-parietal scalp region, in addition to there is thickening and heterogenous enhancing area measured about 37x23mm seen in the high region of anterior frontal scalp surgical bed as well as there is erosion of adjacent bone, picture of recurrent versus metastatic changes in the surgical bed and skull bone.

**Chest CT scan 7/9/2021**

Multiple variable sizes nodules scattered in both lung fields, the largest measured in right side 20x15mm in posterior segment of right upper lung lobe and the largest measured in left side 11x8 mm in in anterior segment of left upper lung lobe, picture metastatic pulmonary changes.

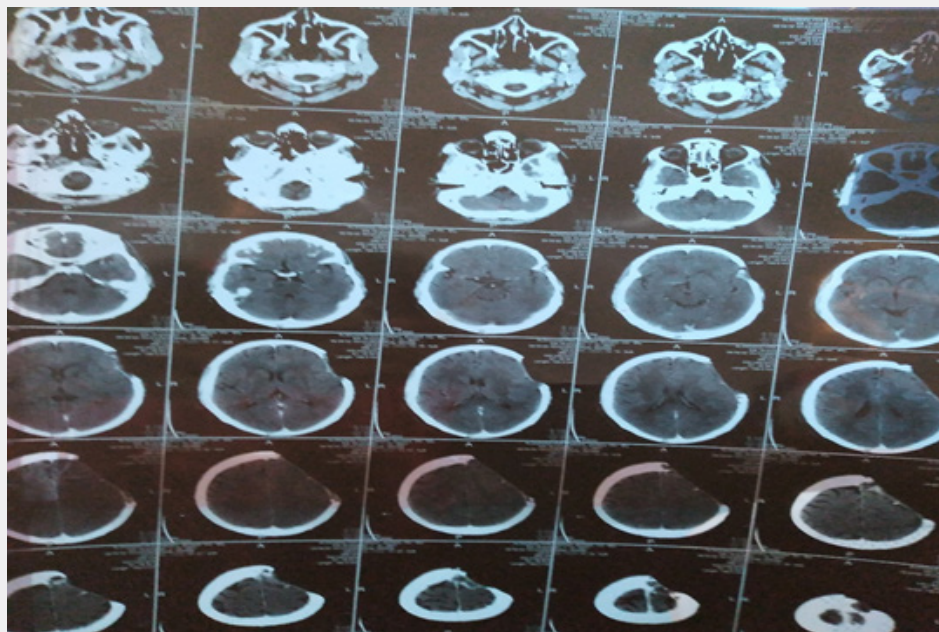
**Abdomen CT scan 7/9/2021**

Well-defined heterogenous enhancing lesion measured about 8x7x7 cm with lobulated outline and peripherally enhancing as well as foci of calcification component in which this lesion infiltrated the right hepatic lobe segments VI, VII and VIII with reduction of volumes of lobe, picture first possibility of hepatic metastatic changes.

Expansile and lytic lesion involving left iliac bone in which the affected area measure about 26x28x19mm, picture of metastatic bony changes. Normal other organs, no fluid collection or sizable lymphadenopathy in abdominal and pelvic cavity. At that time, his laboratory were all within normal limits' remained (Performans status score 0) ECGO, he was then started on pazopanib 400mgx 2tab, which was well tolerated for nine month until publish this article with zoledronic acids 4mg monthly. CT-scan after three months of pazopanib was show stationary course for recurrent brain mass and lung metastasis, no any complain for headache or facial palsy or cough only complain bon pain, continue on pazopanib and zoledronic acid till publish this article with stabilize his condition

**Brian CT scan with contrast 27/3/2022**

Evidence of craniotomy of left fronto-temporal=parietal with resection tumor with evident residual tumor at peripheral edge of craniotomy seen as heterogenous lobulated on upper partial measure about 23x20mm, and left temporal measured about 25x20mm, normal ventricular system with no midline shift, normal posterior fossa structures (Figure 5).



**Figure5:** CT scan brain with contrast evident residual tumor at peripheral edge of craniotomy measure 23x20 mm on partial and 25x20 mm on left temporal.

**Chest and Abdomen CT scan with contrast 27/3/2022**

Evidence of multiple variable size pulmonary nodules largest on in posterior segment of right upper lobe measure about 20x13mm. multiple heterogeneous well define, lobulated focal hepatic lesion largest one seen in right hepatic lobe with calcify spots measured about 70x63 mm bulgy to inferior liver surface. Destructive lytic lesion with soft tissue component seen in left rib 5<sup>th</sup>, in left iliac bone and lower sacrum, also lytic lesion in inD1, D3. no other abnormality detected. In compare to pervious study dated in 7/9/2021 their progression course informs increase

metastatic bone lesion (Figures 1-5).

**Discussion**

With 200 reported case date [9]. ELSTs are rare and most commonly occur in fifth and sixth decades of life. They may be sporadic or associated with VHL syndrome (Table 1). Treatment of ELST involves local resection of the tumor or radical mastoidectomy alone, or in combination with radiotherapy. early surgical excision is the best treatment when tumor is small. Local recurrence after surgery can occur. Bambakidis et al. [10] devised a grading system to plan the surgical approach (Table 2).

**Table 1:** Different between sporadic and VHL-associated ELS.

	Sporadic ELST	VHL-associated ELST
Age at occurrence	Fifth to sixth decades of life	Usually occur earlier, in the third or fourth decades of life
Sex prediction (M: F)	1:1	1:2
Side of occurrence	Mostly unilateral	Bilateral 30% (4) of the patients with VHL

**Table 2:** Grading and treatment system for endolymphatic sac tumor.

Surgical approach	Tumor extent	Grade
1	Confined to the temporal bone, middle- ear cavity, and /or external auditory canal	Hearing preservation with retro labyrinthine transdural approach
2	Extension into posterior fossa	Extended retro labyrinthine transdural approach. Approach with labyrinthectomy if hearing is poor
3	Extension in to posterior fossa and middle carinal fossa	Subtemporal craniotomy with petrosectomy approach
4	Extension to clivus and/or sphenoid wing	Stage anterior and posterior fossa techniques

In our case complete removal of tumor was possible because of small mass than did not need preoperative embolization (Figures 3 & 4). The curative effect of radiation and gamma knife surgery remain controversial [4]. Recommendation from some literatures and postoperative radiotherapy may be effective as adjuvant treatment for cases of recurrent or difficult resection [6,7]. In our case radiotherapy given for recurrent mass. Metastases from ELST are very rare. In this case develop metastases to bone and lung and multiple focal hepatic lesion. patient treated with pazopanib 800mg tab daily for six months with stabilize his condition and patient alive till publish this article. There is no standard or established chemotherapeutic regimen ,which is especially problematic for patients in whom resection is subtotal or not possible due to structural limitation or vascular compromise .however, a posited role of antiangiogenic agent such as sunitinib and bevacizumab in the management of VHL may provide alternative treatment for ELSTs [10-13]. For patient in whom these agents are ineffective or not tolerated ,novel agent such as pazopanib a multi-kinase inhibitor and angiogenic may provide new avenues for treatment. More recently Jonasch et al. demonstrated in phase II, single center trial that patient with diagnosed VHL may response to tumors of multiple organs when started on pazopanib therapy [14].

**Conclusion**

Endolymphatic sac tumor are rare tumors of the temporal bone. due to rare cases reported A multidisciplinary treatment approach including neurosurgeon, radiologists, neuropathologists and radiation oncologists should provide to patients with ELST to achieve adequate control of these locally aggressive tumors.

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