

Abstract

Background: Pituitary dysfunction in adults are often associated with tumors of the gland and manifests with mass effects and hypopituitarism. MRI of pituitary region often provides confirmation of the diagnosis and assists in planning neurosurgery.

Case presentation: A 69 years old female evaluated for chronic headache was found to have a supra-sellar mass lesion that mimicked a pituitary tumor, with biochemical evidence of hypopituitarism. Cerebral angiogram confirmed the diagnosis of an aneurysm of the intracavernous internal carotid artery. She was successfully treated with coil embolization of the aneurysm and achieved resolution of symptoms and return of biochemistries to normal.

Conclusion: Carotid aneurysm can mimic pituitary tumours clinically and radiologically on MRI scan. This rare possibility should be considered in evaluating supra-sellar masses to avoid catastrophic consequences.