CASE REPORTS

ABSTRACT
Objective: To report a case of ectopic brain tissue in the nasopharynx; discuss the differential diagnoses for and management of, this unilateral nasal mass in a pediatric patient, and describe the diagnostic difficulties and eventual treatment.

Methods:
- **Study Design:** Case Report
- **Setting:** Tertiary Government Hospital
- **Participant:** One

Results: A 13-year-old boy consulted with an obstructing mass in the nasopharynx and severe muscle wasting, weight below his age and concurrent anemia. CT-scan revealed a soft-tissue mass occupying a maxillary sinus and nasopharynx consistent with an antrochoanal polyp. Initial biopsy revealed a papilloma, but the clinical picture warranted preoperative preparations for a possible vascular tumor such as juvenile angiofibroma. Transpalatal excision and final histopathology yielded nasal glial heterotopia.

Conclusion: When confronted with a unilateral nasal mass in a pediatric patient, aside from the usual considerations, embryologic anomalies particularly those of the intracranial protrusion variety should be strongly considered. Scrupulous preoperative evaluation and sufficient diagnostic modalities must be pursued in order to arrive at a correct diagnosis, treatment plan and prevent possible complications especially those related to intracranial communication.

Keywords: nasal glioma, glial heterotopia, congenital nasal masses

Nasal Glial Heterotopia: Unsuspected Brain Tissue in the Nasopharynx

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Tumors in the nasal cavity are rare in the pediatric age group. Although most are benign, they can cause serious problems in children. These lesions may arise from an inflammatory cause, neoplastic process or alteration during embryonic development. Usually evident during infancy, some may remain unrecognized until late childhood. The diversity of presentation may not point to a specific cause, making it cumbersome for clinicians to diagnose. We report the case of a teenage boy who was diagnosed with, and managed for, a vascular tumor that later turned out a totally different entity.