

Skull base tumors

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There is a wide variety of tumors that affect the skull base. The treatment of these tumors depends on the histologic type and the grade differentiation of the tumor, its location in the skull and the patient's general status. Apart from chemotherapy and radiotherapy, surgical treatment of these tumors offers good survival rates and raises a technical challenge for the surgeon. This is a presentation to review our experience and evaluate our results in the cases of skull base tumors that were documented and treated during the last 15 years.

A total of 19 patients were examined, of which 12 male and 7 female, with an average age of 50 years. In 3 patients the primary tumor was located in the med face, in 8 patients in the orbit and the maxilla and in 8 patients in the anterior fossa. The surgery involved bilateral maxillectomy, rhinectomy and resection of the anterior fossa in 2 patients, orbitectomy, maxillectomy and resection of the anterior fossa in 12 patients, resection of the middle temporal fossa, mastoidectomy and petrosectomy in 5 patients. The reconstruction involved (in various combinations) anterolateral thigh flap and vastus lateralis transfer in 4 patients, rectus abdominis flap transfer in 4 patients, latissimus dorsi flap transfer in 4 patients, radial forearm flap in 2 patients, pectoralis major flap transfer in 2 patients, dynamic temporalis flap transfer in 5 patients.

There was a variety in the histopathology, as there were 10 cases of basal cell carcinoma and 9 cases of basosquamous carcinoma. Wide surgical resection, combined with post-operative radiotherapy and/or chemotherapy when indicated, and reconstruction with microvascular techniques can improve prognosis and promote the quality of life of our patients