Large vagal nerve schwannoma presenting with hemorrhage and respiratory failure

A 30-year-old man was intubated after sudden severe headache, loss of consciousness, and apnea. CT showed acute hemorrhage in the posterior fossa, brainstem compression, and intraventricular extension with early obstructive hydrocephalus (figure 1A). MRI showed a large heterogeneously enhancing extra-axial tumor extending from the cerebellopontine angle to the foramen magnum (figure 1B and C). Intraoperatively the tumor was purely intracranial, arising from the right vagus nerve. He remained apneic postoperatively. Pathology was consistent with schwannoma (figure 2).

Lower cranial nerve schwannomas constitute 3% of all intracranial schwannomas; purely intracranial
vagal schwannomas are particularly infrequent.\textsuperscript{1} Intratumoral and subarachnoid hemorrhage rarely occur with schwannomas.\textsuperscript{2}

**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Drs. Rizek, Lincoln, and Wolf: study design and concept, drafting and revising the manuscript. Drs. Entwistle and Kurdi: revision of selected figures and legends.

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**DISCLOSURE**

P. Rizek reports no disclosures. M. Lincoln is a member of the Resident & Fellow Section of *Neurology*\textsuperscript{®}. A. Wolf, B. Entwistle, and M. Kurdi report no disclosures. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

**REFERENCES**


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