

A peculiar incident of a Potts puffy tumour in Eye Casualty

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Introduction:

- Infrequent in nature, a Pott's puffy tumour is a serious complication of frontal sinusitis.
- It appears as osteomyelitis, swelling and oedema over the forehead and scalp.
- There is a risk of causing intracranial complications and has the potential to cause death.

Case presentation:

- A 14-year-old female usually fit and healthy, with 2-week history of frontal headache and flu-like symptom.
- Presented to the eye casualty with right eye orbital and gross lid swelling, with no obvious erythema.
- Both conjunctiva and sclera are white. Both fundus are normal.
- Patient was admitted and treated as orbital/preseptal cellulitis
- Worsening proptosis, red desaturation, diplopia and ophthalmoplegia. No sinusitis features.
- Urgent CT head was organised, showing Potts Puffy Tumour.
- Treatment: intravenous antibiotics, Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS), balloon sinuplasty and washout left maxillary, with good patient recovery.

Conclusion:

- A Potts puffy tumour may mimic preseptal cellulitis
- Lack of lid erythema with a provisional diagnosis of preseptal cellulitis should raise clinical suspicion for Potts puffy tumour
- Potts puffy tumour can present as an Ophthalmic emergency
- Delayed diagnosis or inadequate treatment can lead to death.

