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Malignant Orofacial Swelling in 4 Year Old Girl

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Rhabdomyosarcoma of Oral Cavity

A 3 year-old girl presented with complaints of acute onset, rapidly progressive, painless swelling of orofacial region for 2 months. Local examination revealed a firm, protruding soft tissue mass arising from upper jaw involving upper lip, gums and nostril (Figure 1). Contrast enhanced CT scan of face revealed a well-defined midline anterior maxillary soft tissue mass with bony erosion and biopsy from the lesion confirmed the diagnosis of Rhabdomyosarcoma-embryonal type. Metastatic work up was negative. The mass showed complete shrinkage after 9 weeks of chemotherapy. Presently child is undergoing chemotherapy and is planned for radiotherapy. Rhabdomyosarcoma, the most common soft tissue sarcoma, accounts for 3-4% of all childhood cancers. RMS of oral cavity is rare and constitutes 10-12% of all head and neck Rhabdomyosarcoma. Standard therapy for Rhabdomyosarcoma includes chemotherapy combined with surgical resection+radiotherapy.



Figure 1: Soft tissue mass involving upper jaw, lip and nostrils.