

CASE REPORT

Case report: Langerhans cell histiocytosis of the temporal bone in children: Challenging diagnosis of a rare disease with some pitfalls

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Abstract

A 4-year-old girl was admitted to hospital with disturbance of balance. After being questioned, parents remembered an otitis with effusion 3 months earlier. CT-scans revealed destruction of both temporal bones. Initial biopsy showed granulomatous, necrotic inflammation, which led to comprehensive differential diagnoses. A second tissue sample confirmed Langerhans cell histiocytosis.

KEYWORDS

facial paralysis, hearing loss, Langerhans cell histiocytosis, neuroblastoma, orofacial granulomatosis, temporal bone, vestibular diseases

1 | INTRODUCTION

Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH) is a very rare condition with an incidence of 4–5 cases per million per year in children in Europe.^{1,2} Currently, the etiology of the disease is not completely known; there is some evidence, that it is mainly caused by unchecked proliferation of Langerhans cells, which occur predominantly in children and teenagers. The course of this disease is not uniform. In some cases, single lesions with spontaneous regression occur, resembling an abnormal reactive or inflammatory process rather than a neoplasia. On the contrary, however, multiple lesions with infiltrative growth pattern like malignant tumors can appear with a mortality rate of up to 50%.³

Clinical symptoms are variable. Some children may initially present with a rash. However, the disease involves the skeleton in up to 80% of patients with infiltration of skull bones, skull base, hip/pelvis, femur, and ribs. Other organ manifestations of LCH are involvement of lymph nodes in up to 30% of cases, pituitary gland (in up to 25%),

lungs (in up to 20%), liver, spleen, bone marrow, gastrointestinal tract, and central nervous system.^{3,4}

A clinical classification system differentiates between a single organ disease, in which only one organ system is affected, and a multiorgan or systemic disease, in which two or more organs/organ systems are involved.⁵ Additionally, this classification system describes risk lesions, which are defined as lesions with a higher risk of fatal courses or a higher risk of clinical complications.⁴ A LCH lesion in the temporal bone is classified as a risk lesion, because severe complications can occur, that is, hearing loss, balance disorders, facial nerve palsy, or intracranial extension. Single system-LCH involving exclusively the temporal bone is rare. Roughly half of children with temporal bone LCH show bitemporal involvement.^{6–9}

Treatment strategies vary and are depending on the clinical course of the LCH and comprise: watchful waiting, medical treatments (topic vs. systemic application—corticosteroids, immunosuppressants, chemotherapeutics), irradiation, or surgery.⁴

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2 | CASE HISTORY AND EXAMINATION

A 4-year-old female child with Turkish ancestry was admitted to the emergency service of a Children's Hospital with progressive walking disturbances and recurrent falling. The parents reported that their daughter had been able to walk and run steadily, but 5 days before admittance she staggered and fell down repeatedly, or at least she grabbed parents' hands to avoid falling. During her first fall, she hit her head on a hard surface, which resulted in mild head injury and an open wound on the nasal bridge that had to be stitched. There were no known prior diseases, surgeries, or allergies.

The medical examination revealed a seemingly healthy child, GCS 15/15, no infection of the wound on the nasal bridge, no more obvious staggering; both ear canals were blocked by effusion/cerumen. All other clinical findings were in accordance with an "age-appropriate" child. Routine blood samples taken during admittance were without any pathological findings. According to the history of recurrent falling and balance disorders, the kid was admitted to the hospital for further differential diagnostic examinations and treatment.

3 | DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND TREATMENT

During ENT examination with the pediatric otorhinolaryngologist, the parents reported "problems with the ears" for 3 months. Initially, an acute otitis media with effusion and ear drum perforation had been diagnosed. By systemic and topical application of antibiotics the effusion decreased but was never receding completely. The parents further reported a slight language development delay, while being raised bilingually. Their daughter had received speech therapy.

Microscopic examination of the left ear showed no effusion, and the ear drum was intact without signs of inflammation. On the right side, the external ear canal was blocked by polyps and secretion. The tympanic membrane could not be seen—even after intensive cleaning of the external ear canal—due to polyp formation. A nystagmus was not evident by examination with Frenzel's nystagmus glasses. The clinical facial nerve function was found to be intact on both sides. A computed tomography (CT-scans) of the head and temporal bones was recommended. It revealed evidence of osteolysis of the temporal bone on both sides, including both mastoids, both superior and lateral semicircular canals, and the external auditory canal on the right side. Additionally, there was a third osteolytic lesion

in the dorsal parts of the left-sided parietal bone adjacent to the occipital bone (Figure 1). CT-scans further showed hypertrophic adenoids and slightly swollen mucosa of the paranasal sinuses. CT-morphologically the bone lesions were regarded as highly suspicious for Langerhans cell histiocytosis or metastatic neuroblastoma.

Audiologically, a profound hearing loss close to deafness on the right side with almost normal hearing on the left ear was found (Figure 2). Clinical and video-assisted head impulse tests could not be performed reliably due to the young age of the child and non-cooperative behavior.

In the next step, a biopsy from the right external auditory canal was taken in general anesthesia. Here, a very soft, pinkish, in parts grayish, polypoid tissue with some inclusions of cartilage like fragments was found. Tissue samples were taken for both histopathological and microbiological examinations. Another sample was taken from the underlying bone of the eroded external ear canal wall.

Histopathologically, granulomatous inflammation and necrosis were described without any pathologic Langerhans cells, eosinophilia (which may occur in LCH), or any malignant cells.

According to these findings, further differential diagnoses of subacute to chronic osteolytic mastoiditis/osteolytic temporal bone lesions were considered (Table 1). Further blood and urine samples were taken, a chest radiograph and skin test for tuberculosis were performed. The girl's immune competence was checked roughly to evaluate whether it would be necessary to consider opportunistic infections or grave courses of usually mild diseases. This included full blood count, vaccine titers, serum electrophoreses, serum immunoglobulin status, and HIV status (Table 2).

However, none of these examinations led to a final diagnosis. After re-evaluation of the histopathologic findings and discussion with the pathologists, a second biopsy of the affected bone was taken along with a biopsy of the hypertrophic adenoids. Intraoperatively, the bone of the skull (including the periosteum) was found to be completely osteolytic, and the resulting osteolytic bone defect was filled with soft, necrotic tissue (Figure 3). Initially suspected Langerhans cell histiocytosis could now be confirmed morphologically and immunohistochemically by positive staining for CD1a and CD 207 (Langerin) (Figure 4).

The patient was referred to the Dept. of Pediatric Oncology, where staging was completed by whole-body MRI. Fortunately, no further lesions were detected, and a chemotherapy with vinblastine and corticosteroids was started immediately. Treatment was continued for 6 months, after which almost full remission was achieved. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans showed only minimal residual enhancement in both temporal bones.

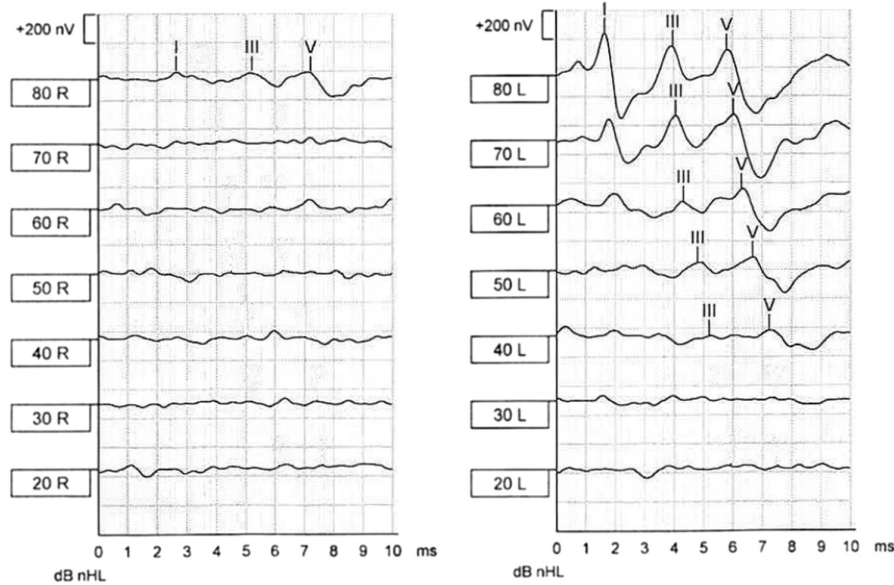


FIGURE 1 BERA (brainstem evoked response audiometry). BERA is an objective method to assess hearing capacity. On the left ear (right side of the figure), the measurement shows normal wave forms without prolonged latencies and a threshold of 40 dB, which excludes profound hearing loss. On the right ear (left side of the figure), the hearing threshold is at 80 dB, which indicates profound hearing loss close to deafness. The latency for wave I is markedly prolonged with almost normal interpeak intervals, indicating a conductive or sensorineural hearing loss with intact vestibulocochlear nerve

However, to date re-mineralization of the bone was not evident. Audiologic controls still showed a hearing loss, which will be monitored closely in the future.

4 | DISCUSSION

Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH) is a rare disease probably caused by unregulated proliferation of dendritic Langerhans cells. It affects mostly young children with an age maximum (91% of cases) of 1–4 years⁹ (mean age of 3 years).^{7,19} The course and prognosis of this condition is not uniform and the symptoms are often unspecific.³ In this case report, we present the case of a girl with a craniofacial LCH, in whom both temporal bones and the dorsal parietal bone were affected. Due to the variety of symptoms of craniofacial LCH, diagnosis is challenging and misdiagnosis and mistreatment are common.^{9,20} Furthermore, clinical symptoms of temporal bone LCH are very unspecific with scalp/postauricular lesions, otalgia, persistent ear infections/granulation of the external auditory canal, or hearing loss (mostly conductive hearing loss).^{19,21–23} In very rare cases, disturbance of balance and uncertain gait are the only noteworthy symptoms for the parents indicating labyrinthine involvement and bringing them to the emergency room.

However, temporal bone or ear affection are regarded to be not very common in LCH. Some authors report that only 30% of pediatric patients present with involvement

of temporal bone or ears.^{24,25} Nevertheless, the rates vary from 4% through 61%, and among children with craniofacial LCH, the temporal bone is the most common localization (82%).^{8,26} Up to half of the patients show a bilateral involvement (30%–55%), like the patient in this case report.^{7–9} In CT-scans, the osteolytic lesions of the temporal bone display a typical “punched out” aspect⁵ (Figure 1) and are usually located in the mastoid, squamous temporal bone, external auditory canal, middle ear, or petrous apex.¹⁹

Langerhans cell histiocytosis diagnosis is based on histological and immunohistological examinations⁴ and may sometimes be challenging. The case reported here shows how many potential differential diagnoses have to be considered (Table 1), particularly, if an initial tissue sample shows neither typical histological characteristics of LCH nor CD1a or CD207 (Langerin) staining in immunohistochemistry, which are regarded to be pathognomonic for LCH.⁴

Our patient suffered from single system (SS) multifocal bone involvement, which usually remains limited to the skeleton. The treatment options vary from watchful waiting to systemic chemotherapy, depending on the duration and extension of disease, symptoms, and risk of permanent sequelae.⁴ Our patient received the most commonly applied systemic chemotherapy for single system-LCH (multifocal bone affection) with vinblastine and corticosteroids. She is now in remission at her 6-month follow-up. When contemplating the therapeutic options, the

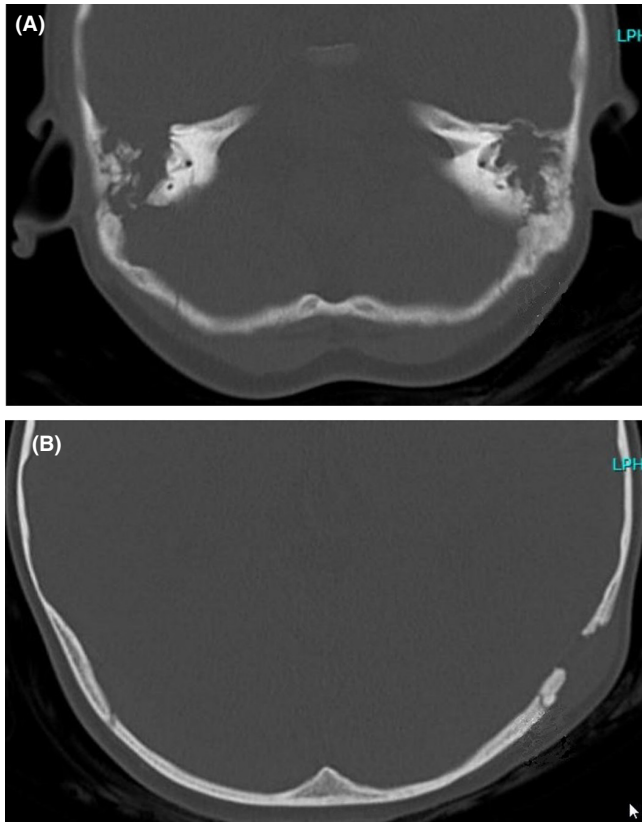


FIGURE 2 CT-scan of temporal bones and skull. CT-scan shows the vast osteolysis of both temporal bones, including the semicircular canals of the labyrinth (A) and the osteolytic lesion of the dorsal parietal bone (B). Osteolytic lesions of Langerhans cell histiocytosis usually have sharp borders without margin sclerotization (“pushed out lesions”) and diffuse soft tissue density within the lesions

decision for this therapy was made due to the vast labyrinthine destruction, risk of permanent balance disturbances and risk of deafness.

In general, craniofacial single- or multifocal bone LCH has a favorable prognosis. However, mortality rates of 4.5% through 18% have been reported.^{8,9,20} Recurrences occur frequently, particularly in cases with multifocal bone involvement (16.7%–57%).^{4,8,19,22} Additionally, there is a high rate of long-term morbidity and sequelae when the temporal bone is involved by the disease:

- Hearing is often lost when the otic capsule is destroyed. Otic capsule involvement is reported in 20%–29% of cases, resulting in sensorineural hearing loss in 75% of these cases.^{7,19,27–29} After treatment, there may be bone re-mineralization and re-constitution of the labyrinth,³⁰ but the sensorineural hearing loss usually persists,^{7,28,31} except for extremely rare cases.^{32,33} However, there are reports of successful cochlear implantation to restore hearing ability.^{34–36}

- Even if there is no initial hearing loss, several authors report progressive bilateral hearing loss following treatment. Nandurie et al. observed hearing loss in 38% of their patients 5 years post-therapeutically.³⁷ The following reasons for this progressive hearing loss should be discussed: ototoxic chemotherapy,³⁶ labyrinthitis ossificans,¹⁹ acquired cytomegalovirus infection in the immunocompromised situation,³⁸ or an initially undiscovered congenital inner ear anomaly.³⁹ Finally, a bias during audiologic examination should also be considered, particularly when subjective hearing tests are performed: in young patients (i.e., at initial diagnosis) hearing assessment is not as easy as in older patients. It is time-consuming and requires a lot of empathy and experience by the examiner. Therefore, younger patients may present with apparently better hearing results. In doubtful cases, objective hearing tests should be performed, even if a sedation is required.
- Chronic otitis externa and chronic otitis media with or without effusion occur often even after successful treatment and remission. However, children with LCH do not develop middle-ear cholesteatoma more often than their healthy counterparts.⁴⁰
- The temporal bone location of LCH may also affect the facial nerve, leading to persistent facial nerve palsy.³¹
- Intracranial extension of temporal bone LCH occurs quite often (up to 35%)⁸ and may lead to persistent damage of parts of the central nervous system with severe neurological sequelae.²⁰

To highlight the learning points of this case:

- Otitis with effusion that does not improve despite adequate therapy should always be a warning sign. It should lead to further radiologic evaluation, particularly if associated with hearing loss, balance disorders, or facial nerve palsy—even if the symptoms occur time-delayed.
- When working with children who cannot yet articulate their symptoms accurately, the medical staff has to look for indirect signs of temporal bone involvement such as “falling” for vestibular disturbances or “delay of language development” for hearing loss. The parents cannot connect different symptoms into one clinical picture, so medical staff has to be diligent in questioning the parents and meticulous in examining the sometimes non-cooperative child.
- The differential diagnoses of temporal bone lesions are extensive; histology should always be acquired to rule out malignancy. If there is a discrepancy between clinically malignant signs and benign histology, a second biopsy is required, and an interdisciplinary discussion with the pathologist might be advantageous.

TABLE 1 Differential diagnoses of subacute to chronic granulomatous, necrotic, or osteolytic mastoiditis/osteolytic temporal bone lesions

Disease	Characteristics	Typical diagnostic findings
Tuberculous mastoiditis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary TB: usually lung, specific intrapulmonary lesion (Ghon focus), possibly with lymph node affection (Ghon complex) Hematogenous spread to every organ is possible (extreme variant: miliary TB) Postprimary TB: dormant primary complex with life-long chance of re-activation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood count: leukocytosis, blood sedimentation ↑, serum: CRP ↑ Chest X-ray/CT-scan: very variable, discrete infiltrates, through Ghon focus/complex, through mediastinal enlargement (with calcification), to characteristic (apical) cavities (even bi-pulmonary) Indirect pathogen detection: tuberculin skin test or blood interferon-γ release assay Direct pathogen detection: from body fluids or tissue biopsies
Syphilitic osteomyelitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage I: chancre, lymphadenitis Stage II: exanthema, condylomata lata St. III: cardiovascular syphilis, gummata (granulomas of skin, mucous membranes, and bone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood count: leukocytosis Blood sedimentation ↑ Serum: CRP ↑, TPPA/TPHA pos.
Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immune-vasculitis with granulomatous inflammation Early symptoms: chronic rhinitis/sinusitis, chronic otitis/mastoiditis Affected organs later: lung > kidney, eyes > skin > heart, nervous system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood count: anemia, leukocytosis, thrombocytosis Blood sedimentation ↑, serum: CRP ↑, cANCA ↑ > RF ↑ > ANA ↑ Urinanalysis: hematuria, proteinuria Chest X-ray: single or bi-pulmonary round foci Chest CT-scan: single or bi-pulmonary round foci, ground-glass opacification
Sarcoidosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disease with formation of granulomata, etiology unknown Main focus: lung, but any other organ can be affected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood count: leukocytosis, blood sedimentation ↑ Serum: Ca²⁺ ↑, CRP ↑, ACE ↑, sIL-2R ↑, IgG ↑ Chest X-ray: bilateral lymphadenopathy, reticulonodular infiltrates, cystic and bullous changes
Cholesteatoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accumulation of exfoliated keratin produced from stratified squamous epithelium Genuine vs. secondary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear microscopy: discharge, polyps, epitympanic crust, flaky-white debris Valsalva maneuver often negative, positive fistula sign Audiology testing: conductive hearing loss, reduced vestibular function
Malignant otitis externa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External otitis that progresses into an osteomyelitis of the temporal bone Weakened immune system is a prerequisite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear microscopy: discharge, swollen external ear canal, exposed bone Audiology: conductive or combined hearing loss, vestibular function ↓ Facial palsy, meningitis, sinus thrombosis, palsy of N. IX, X, XI Blood count: leukocytosis, blood sedimentation ↑ Serum: CRP ↑, Glc/HbA1c (diabetes) ↑, HIV pos. (immunosuppression)
Ewing sarcoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predominant site: long bones of extremities and pelvis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood sedimentation ↑, serum: CRP ↑, alkaline phosphatase ↑, NSE ↑ MRI (primary lesion), local lymph node sonography Staging: chest CT-scan (20% pulmonary metastasis), skeletal scintigraphy
Osteosarcoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predominant site: metadiaphysis of long bones, esp. prox. tibia and distal femur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serum: CRP ↑, alkaline phosphatase ↑ MRI (primary lesion), local lymph node sonography Staging: chest CT (10%–20% pulmonary metastasis), skeletal scintigraphy

(Continues)

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Disease	Characteristics	Typical diagnostic findings
Chondrosarcoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominant site: pelvis, prox. Femur • Mostly adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serum: CRP ↑, alkaline phosphatase ↑ • MRI (primary lesion), local lymph node sonography • Staging: chest CT (up to 80% metastasis in G3 tumors), abdominal sonography/CT, skeletal scintigraphy
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plasmacytoma/multiple myeloma • Diffuse large B-cell NHL • Diffuse large T-cell NHL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heterogenous group of malignant tumors of the lymphatic system (B- and T-cells) • Predominant site: lymph nodes, spleen • Extranodal sites: stomach, Waldeyer's ring, central nervous system, lung, bone, skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood count, blood sedimentation ↑, serum: CRP ↑, Ca²⁺ ↑, alkaline phosphatase ↑/↓, monoclonal gammopathy • Urine: Bence Jones proteinuria • Abdominal ultrasound: splenomegaly, lymphadenopathy • Chest X-ray: bilateral hilar lymphadenopathy • Esophagogastroduodenoscopy
Metastatic neuroblastoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuroblastomas arise from the sympathetic nervous system, esp. adrenal glands, retroperitoneum, and posterior mediastinum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urine: VMA and HVA in 24-h urine collection ↑ • Serum: VMA ↑, HVA ↑, LDH ↑, Ferritin ↑, NSE ↑ • Abdominal ultrasound, tomography (chest/abdomen) • MIBG-scintigraphy, bone marrow biopsy
Giant cell tumor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originates from undifferentiated mesenchymal cells of the bone marrow • Predominant site: epiphysis of long bones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serum: parathyroid hormone (to rule out "brown tumor" caused by hyperparathyroidism) • Chest CT-scan: 10% pulmonary metastasis
Benign/semi-benign lesions	Osteoblastoma, chondroblastoma, central giant cell lesion/granuloma, non-ossifying fibroma, fibrous dysplasia, aneurysmal bone cyst, vestibular schwannoma, meningioma, glioma, neuroma, chordoma, epidermoid, jugulotympanic paraganglioma, ACI aneurysm	

Note: This table gives an overview of considerations on differential diagnoses of subacute to chronic mastoiditis with osteolysis in tomographic imaging. Histopathologically, some of the described lesions present themselves primarily as granulomatous chronic inflammation, such as tuberculous mastoiditis, syphilitic osteomyelitis, granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis), and sarcoidosis. In other lesions, necrosis is predominant (e.g., malignant otitis externa). And, the last group is predominated by its osteolytic aspect in tomography: Ewing sarcoma, osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), neuroblastoma, giant cell tumor.^{10–18}

Abbreviations: ACE, acetylcholinesterase; ANA, antinuclear antibody; cANCA, cytoplasmic antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies; CRP, C-reactive protein; CT, computed tomography; Glc, glucose; HVA, homovanillic acid; IgG, immunoglobulin G; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; MIBG, metaiodobenzylguanidine; NSE, neuron specific enolase; pANCA, perinuclear antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies; RF, rheumatoid factor; sIL-2R, soluble interleukin-2 receptor; TB, tuberculosis; TPHA, Treponema pallidum hemagglutination assay; TPPA, Treponema pallidum particle agglutination assay; VMA, vanillylmandelic acid.

TABLE 2 Blood parameters

Parameter	Result	Reference range
Na ⁺	137	134–145 mmol/L
K ⁺	4.2	3.1–5.1 mmol/L
Ca ²⁺	1.28	1.1–1.3 mmol/L
Cl ⁻	98	96–108 mmol/L
Phosphate (anorg.)	1.96	1.1–1.9 mmol/L
Total protein	7.1	5.5–8 g/dL
Creatinine	0.28	0.3–0.7 mg/dL
GPT/ALT	29	12–39 U/L
GOT/AST	37	22–49 U/L
GGT	12	6–17 U/L
Bilirubin	1.35	0–0.5 mg/dL
CRP	3.24	0–0.5 mg/dL
LDH	196	180–350 U/L
Alkaline phosphatase	193	145–340 U/L
TSH	0.642	0.6–4 μU/ml

TABLE 2 (Continued)

Parameter	Result	Reference range
Ferritin	51	15–130 μg/L
HbA1c	5.5	4.3%–5.6%
Hemoglobin	11.1	10.7–13.9/nl
Leukocytes	7.4	5.4–13.8/nl
Thrombocytes	511	200–460/nl
Basophils	0.02	0–0.02/nl
Eosinophils	0.02	0.02–0.75/nl
Lymphocytes	1.43	2.2–8.5/nl
Monocytes	0.64	0.1–1.1/nl
Neutrophils	5.31	1.5–8.5/nl
Banded neutrophils	4	0–6/nl
Segmented neutrophils	72	23–59/nl
Immature granulocytes	0.3	0%–0.8%
PT	79.9	70%–120%
aPTT	30.2	26–45 sec

TABLE 2 (Continued)

Parameter	Result	Reference range
IgA	0.47	0.3–1.9 g/L
IgG	8.6	5.4–13.4 g/L
IgM	0.86	0.52–1.9 g/L
Measles IgG Ab	677.5	>200 = positive
Mumps IgG Ab	1167.0	>100 = positive
Polio virus Ab type 1	Positive	
Polio virus Ab type 3	Positive	
Hemophilus infl. IgG Ab	Positive	
HIV-1/2 Ab	Negative	
Treponema pallidum Ab	0.1	<1.0
ANCA	<1:10	<1:10
cANCA	<20	<20
pANCA	<20	<20
ANA	<1:100	<1:100
RF	<10	<14 IU/ml
ACE	39.4	29–112 U/L

Note: This table shows select blood parameters of the patient.

Abbreviations: Ab, antibody; ACE, acetylcholinesterase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; ANA, antinuclear antibody; ANCA, antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies; aPTT, activated partial thromboplastin time; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; cANCA, cytoplasmic ANCA; CRP, C-reactive protein; GGT, gamma-glutamyltransferase; GOT, glutamyl oxaloacetic transaminase; GPT, glutamic-pyruvic transaminase; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; Ig, immunoglobulin; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; pANCA, perinuclear ANCA; PT, prothrombin time; RF, rheumatoid factor; TSH, thyroid-stimulating hormone. Abnormal values are written in bold font.



FIGURE 3 Photograph of the tumor. During the second surgery, a photograph of the necrotic tumor masses destroying the left parieto-occipital bone was taken

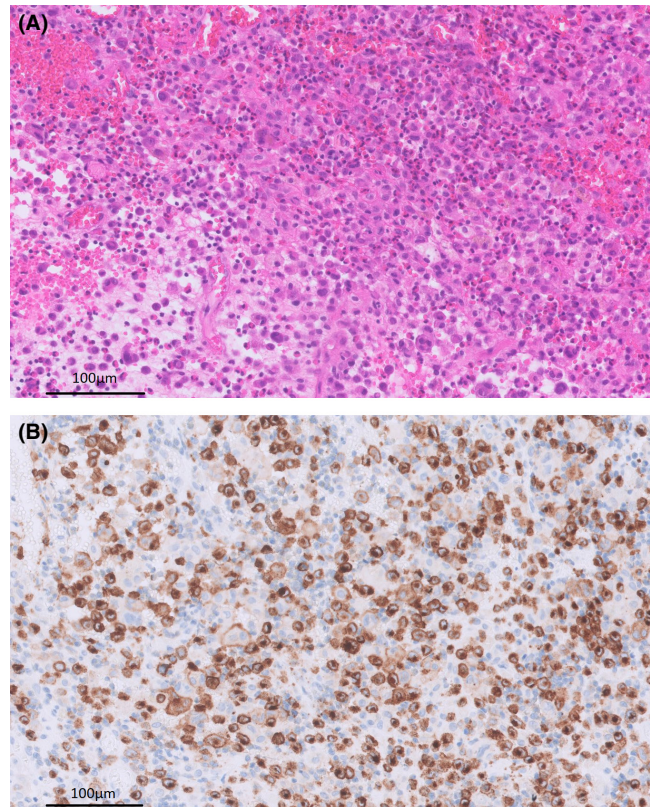


FIGURE 4 Histopathology and immunohistochemistry of the tumor. (A) These pictures show the typical architecture of Langerhans cell histiocytosis. Histopathologically, it is characterized by clonal proliferation of cells that morphologically resemble Langerhans cells: histiocytes having bean-shaped nuclei. These cells infiltrate the healthy tissue and may be accompanied by lymphocytes, macrophages, and eosinophils. (B) Immunohistochemistry of these histiocytes reveals positive staining for CD1a and CD 207 (Langerin)

- Audiologic examinations should always be performed in patients with mastoid/temporal bone affections to detect a significant hearing loss early and to consider adequate hearing rehabilitation for speech development. In doubtful cases with uncertain results of subjective hearing tests or when the children are too young for subjective hearing tests, objective assessment of hearing is mandatory.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Dr. med. Anja Pähler vor der Holte took care of the child on the ward and wrote the manuscript. Prof. Dr. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Welkoborsky provided intellectual inputs and supervised the work.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.


DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

CONSENT

Written informed consent was obtained from both parents of the patient to publish this report in accordance with the journal's patient consent policy.

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