ANEURYSMAL BONE CYST OF THE FRONTAL BONE

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A Bisaya girl aged thirteen attended with a swelling of her forehead which had slowly enlarged for a year. There had been frontal headache for three months, but no other complaint. There was no mental change and no history of injury. On examination she was healthy apart from an oval swelling involving both frontal areas, left more than right (Fig. 1).

The mass was smooth, rounded, hard and slightly tender. There was no egg-shell crackling. Radiographs showed a cystic mass in the frontal bone, expanding it outwards and inwards, with patchy calcification within (Fig. 2).

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Treatment and progress—The patient was referred for further management to the Singapore General Hospital. Investigations showed a normal blood picture; serum calcium, inorganic phosphate, alkaline phosphatase and chest radiograph were also normal. Histological examination of a biopsy specimen showed large vascular spaces between irregular pieces of bone (Fig. 4): lining the cavities was loose fibroblastic tissue with islands of osteoid. The appearance was consistent with the diagnosis of aneurysmal bone cyst. During the succeeding two years there was no change in the size of the mass clinically or radiographically, but there was some increase in the calcification inside the cyst (Fig. 3).

Comment—Lichtenstein (1957) reported three cases of aneurysmal bone cyst involving the skull, but none affected the frontal bone. Jeremiah (1965) reported a case involving the temporal bone. This report is believed to be the first of frontal bone involvement.

Aneurysmal bone cysts not infrequently regress either spontaneously or after minor surgical intervention. Hence it was thought best to watch this case with repeated radiographs rather than to undertake curettage.

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REFERENCES
