Schwannoma of the Sphenoid Sinus Presenting as a Nasal Mass

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Purpose
Describe the appearance of a schwannoma of the sphenoid sinus presenting as a nasal mass.

Materials & Methods
CT scan of the paranasal sinuses revealed a large soft tissue mass occupying the right nasal passage which obliterates the right osteomeatal complex, extends posteriorly into the nasopharynx and superiorly to the sphenoid sinuses. No bone destruction is noted. MR imaging demonstrated the lesion to be iso to hypointense.

Results
Preliminary clinical impression was a nasal polyp and endoscopic resection was performed. Pathology revealed inflammatory polyps with densely cellular areas and moderate nuclear atypia. These areas were reviewed at the AFIP and confirmed to represent a benign schwannoma.

Conclusion
A "nasal polyp’ which is iso or hypointense on T2-weighted imaging, schwannoma should be considered in the differential diagnosis. Only 4% of peripheral nerve sheath tumors of the head and neck occur in the paranasal sinuses. The most commonly involved sinus is the maxillary antrum. To our knowledge, this is the fourth case of sphenoid sinus schwannoma reported in the English literature.

References