

CLINICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Acoustic neuroma

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Acoustic neuroma, also known as vestibular schwannoma, is a benign tumor of the vestibulo-cochlear nerve (VIII cranial nerve). In most cases this tumor has a sporadic occurrence, but it was also associated with neurofibromatosis tip 2 syndromes. Patients with asymmetrical hearing loss, tinnitus, associated or not with vertigo should be evaluated by an ENT specialist.

Our patient, a 56 years-old woman, presented for right ear hearing loss and tinnitus, with slow onset over the past two years. She underwent numerous medical therapies (vasodilators, anti-inflammatory drugs, neurotrophic drugs, etc.) but with no change in symptoms characteristics. The patient had no his-

tory of head or ear trauma, noise trauma, cardiovascular or metabolic pathologies. The pure tone audiogram revealed a mild sensorineural hearing loss in the right ear, with a normal hearing in the left one (Figure 1). Considering patients' history we decided to perform a cranial MRI – scan with gadolinium (Figure 2), which described a tumor of approximately 5mm diameter, located in the medial basal tour of the cochlea, with no signal in T2 sequence, intense and homogenous contrast without bone deformity. The image was suggestive for an acoustic neuroma. The patient was referred to a neurosurgeon specialist.

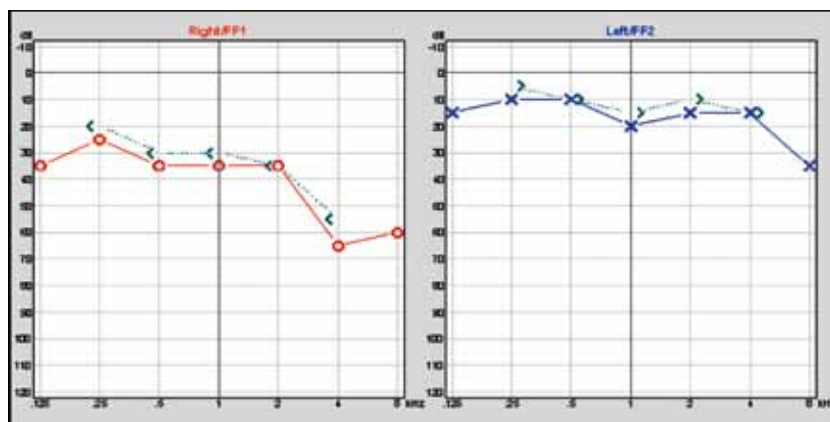


Figure 2 Right ear sensorineural hearing loss

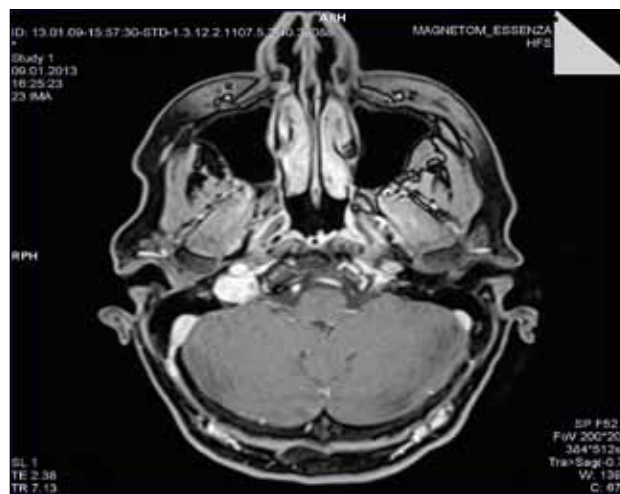
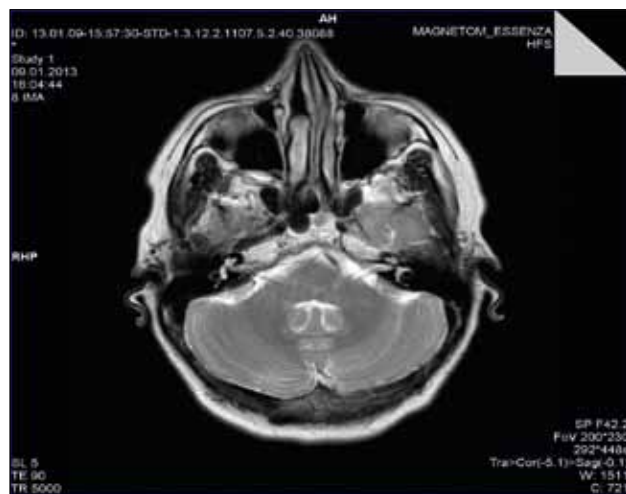


Figure 2 Gadolinium-enhanced head MRI scan, axial slices - right ear intracochlear acoustic neuroma, located in the medial basal tour of the cochlea.