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## DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AN AXILLARY TUMOR OF MERKEL'CELLS IN A GIRL OF 6 YEARS OLD

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**Objectives:** An axillary tumor in a child provides significative challenges to succesful therapy. The purpose of this study is to report the diagnosis and clinical outcome of a tumor of Merkel'cells in a pediatric patient.

**Methods:** A 6-years-old girl was admitted to hospital with a mobile axillary tumor of 25x10mm in diameter without tenderness nor inflammatory signs.

She has been previously treated with a course of cefalexin (100 mg/kg/d) v.o.,for 15 days.

Laboratory evaluation revealed: WBC, hematocrit, platelet were normal. Chest X-ray: without abnormal findings.

Needle aspiration of the mass revealed little and circle cells. Chest,abdominal and pelvic CT Scan were normal.

Surgical remove of the node demostrated it to be a neuroendocrine carcinoma or Merkel'cells tumor.

3 months later she developed a recurrent tumor with similar appearance and localization. A new surgical removal was made with preoperative normal chest, abdominal and pelvic CT Scan.

**Conclusions:** 1. Merkel'cells tumor is a rare carcinoma in children. It can be occurred in elderly patients.

2. Frequently it appears on exposed areas.

3. Diagnosis is based on clinical features and laboratory, radiologic,MRI and CT Scan examination.

4. The recurrence is a relevant characteristic of the Merkel'cells tumor or neuroendocrine carcinoma.

