

## **Core-needle biopsies of retrobulbar tumors: experience in a brazilian cancer center**

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**BACKGROUND:** Fine needle aspiration (FNA) has well-established role in the diagnosis of expansive orbital lesions. Although safe and effective in the majority of cases, the FNA provides only cytological information. This limits further analysis, and can submit the patient to unnecessary excisional surgery when, in some cases, the treatment of these lesions would be eminently clinical (eg. Lymphoma). The first reports of using core biopsy in orbital lesions dates from the 90s.

**HYPOTHESIS:** Core biopsy, although rarely described in the literature, has been proven to be effective - without significant increase in the rate of complications - in obtaining histological fragments, that provide a definitive and accurate diagnosis.

**METHODS:** This case series describes core biopsies of orbital lesions performed and review the current literature about this theme.

**RESULTS:** Although underused, our experience proves to be an executable and well tolerated procedure by most patients, with few complications - mostly without clinical significance - and great diagnosis value for a satisfactory histological analysis, especially when performed by experienced professionals.