Punched-out lesions in skull

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Clinical

A 74-year-old male presented with history of low backache and fatigue for 6 months. His haemoglobin was 6.2 gm/dL, blood urea 132 mg/dL, serum creatinine 8 mg/dL, serum calcium 10.8 mg/dL, and alkaline phosphatase 242 IU/L.

A lateral skull radiograph was performed (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Punched-out lesions in skull

What is the most likely diagnosis?
Answer

*Multiple myeloma*. This condition is characterised by activation of osteoclasts and depressed osteoblastic response which results in generalised osteopenia. At later stages, numerous lytic lesions can be seen giving appearance of punched-out holes, as seen in the skull radiograph (Figure 1). Although these are classically described in multiple myeloma, it can also result from osteolytic metastasis from other malignancies.1

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**Reference:**