Purpose: To report a patient who had a nodular basal cell carcinoma (BCC) on the lateral canthus of the upper and lower eyelids for 10 years and developed orbital invasion.
Method: A 60-year-old man who had deep total periorbital ulcer and orbital cellulitis of his right eye which occurred in a few days. He had a history of approximately 10 years when he was referred to our ophthalmology department in January 2012. 2 years before his referral, he could only undergo a punch biopsy due to its size, which was diagnosed microscopically as nodular type of BCC, and surgical margins were not clear. Visual acuity in the right eye was p (+). Magnetic resonance imaging demonstrated periorbital tissue, intraorbital tissue and lateral orbital wall extension and inflammation. Radiologic examination showed no evidence of systemic spread. The patient received intravenous antibiotics and improvement of orbital cellulitis was detected. Subsequently, surgical treatment was done which composed of orbital exenteration and partial zygomaticectomy.
Conclusions: Altough BCC is a nonmetastasizing and slowly progressing cancer in some cases, it may show an aggressive feature causing orbital invasion. In some cases difficult to separate infectious tissues from tumoral involvement.