Primary Lymphoma of Liver Showing Non-Hodgkin’s B Cell Lymphoma. A Case Report

Akshay Nigam1, Anupama Sharma2*, Ajay Kumar Singh3, Sanjeev Kumar Singh2 and Girish Chandra Sharma2

1Department of Radiation Oncology, G. R. Medical College, Gwalior [M.P] 474001, India
2Department of Biochemistry, G. R. Medical College, Gwalior [M.P] 474001, India
3Division of Bioinorganic Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Aligarh Muslim University [U.P], India

Abstract

Lymphoma, a common malignancy of liver called as primary lymphoma of liver or primary hepatic lymphoma (PHL). It’s an unusual form of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma having symptoms such as hepatomegaly and signs of cholestasis jaundice. With appropriate treatment this hepatic lymphoma has relatively good prognosis. We report a case of 40 years old male with abdominal lump in epigastric region, having constant weight loss from one month and past fever history. Blood estimation leucocytosis were found with mild elevation in hepatic enzymes, on (fine needle aspiration cytology) FNAC lesions were seen in liver. Immunohistochemical examination showed high grade non-Hodgkin’s B cell lymphoma. The radiographic and sonographic examinations were done. On diagnosis secondary metabolites of liver, systemic lymphoma with secondary involvement of liver and hepato-cellular carcinoma were seen. The patient responded for the chemotherapy and is still on follow-up.

Keywords: Primary hepatic lymphoma; Hepatic lymphoma; Non-Hodgkin’s hepatic lymphoma; Radiotherapy; Hepato cellular carcinoma

Introduction

A primary hepatic lymphoma (PHL) is defined as lymphoma localized and limited in the liver [1], not the secondary involvement of high or intermediate grade non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and accounts for less than 1% of all extra nodal lymphomas [2]. It’s an unusual form of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma that usually present with constitutional symptoms, hepatomegaly and signs of cholestasis jaundice without lymph node and extra-hepatic (i.e., the spleen, bone marrow and other lymphoid tissue) lymphoma proliferation at early stage of the disease [1]. The prevalence of PHL is 0.4% among extra-nodal non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and 0.016% among all non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma [2]. Because of its rarity, non-specific clinical symptoms, laboratory and imaging performance, PHL was often misdiagnosed as hepatitis, primary liver cancer or metastatic tumor. In this case report, we present a patient with pathologically confirmed primary hepatic diffuse large B cell lymphoma.

Among them, a primary hepatic low-grade marginal zone B cell lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT lymphoma) is extremely rare. On the other hand, hepatic pseudo-lymphoma (HPL), also termed as reactive lymphoid hyperplasia, or nodular lymphoid lesion is extremely rare disease and characterized by proliferation of non-neoplastic, polyclonal lymphocytes forming follicles with an active germinal center [3].

Case Report

40 years old male presented to the Department of Radiotherapy, J.A. Group of Hospitals, Gwalior, India, with complaint of abdominal lump in epigastric region from 2 months (Figure 1A), with constant weight loss from one month, fever for 15 days of duration followed by night sweating. His medical history was unremarkable. On examination patient was conscious, oriented and afebrile. On abdomen examination there was a mass seen in epigastric region of abdomen which was firm in consistency and moves with respiration. Blood profile shows decreased haemoglobin and leucocytosis. FNAC (fine needle aspiration cytology) of liver lesion showed it was a high grade malignant non-Hodgkin’s B cell lymphoma. Immunohistochemistry showed high grade non-Hodgkin’s B cell lymphoma.

The patient was further recommended for abdominal ultrasound. Large lobulated hypoechoic lesion was seen in lobe of liver (Figure 1B). Small lesion of same echogenecity was seen in right lobe of liver with minimal ascites (Figure 1C). No ultrasonographic evidence of intra abdominal lymphadenopathy was seen.

CECT (Contrast Enhanced Computed Tomography) of the abdomen showed hypo-attenuating lesion on non contrast and mildly enhancing lesion on contrast enhance image in right (Figure 1D) and left lobe of liver were seen with mild ascites (Figure 1E). The chest X-ray was normal.

After confirming the diagnosis of therapy plan include following doses of CHOP, (injection Cyclophosmide 500 mg/m2, injection Vincristine 1.5 mg/m2, injection Doxorubicine 50 mg/m2 and Tablet Wysolon 100 mg/m2 in to 5 days). Six cycles were provided of following chemotherapy. There was almost 100 % response to the chemotherapy and patient is still on follow-up.

Sonography results shown nodular type as well as marginated solitary hypoechoic lobulated lesion seen in 60% cases, which is similar to nodular lymphoma elsewhere in the body. Multifocal lesion seen in 30% of cases and is commonly associated with immunodeficiency state,

*Corresponding author: Anupama Sharma, Department of Biochemistry, G. R. Medical College, Gwalior [M.P] 474001, India, E-mail: shanuanupama@gmail.com

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where as diffusion type of involvement was very rare. CT scan showed mildly enhancing hypointenuating lesions in liver. MRI showed homogenous hyper intense signal on T1 weighted images and hyper intense signal of T1 weighted images.

Discussion

Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma is a common malignant disease. Liver involvement occurs in 10% of patients, it is a sign of advanced disease of only 21% of all reported malignant liver cases. Disposing factors include immunosuppressive states like HIV. PHL refers to an extra-nodal lymphoma of the liver without involvement of any other organ (e.g. lymph node, spleen, etc) [3,4]. The vast majority (67%) of PHL patients are middle-aged men who usually present with abdominal pain, nausea and constitutional symptoms [4]. The male / female ration is 3:1 world wide. PHL is notably rare, representing <1% of all extra-nodal lymphoma [4].

Hepatitis B is not a risk factor for hepatic liver disease. Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma is more common in right hepatic lobe then in left lobe, clinically presented with the symptoms of right upper abdominal mass, epigastric pain and weight loss. If associated with symptoms of Hepatitis B, it indicates poor prognosis. In tumor no elevation seen in patients without any prior liver disease. Diagnosis of PHL requires a liver biopsy compatible with lymphoma and absence of lympho proliferative disease outside the liver.

In addition to physical examination, X-ray of the chest, skull and pelvis is a reliable method for detecting visceral and nodal dissemination and should always be performed.

On differential diagnosis secondary metabolites of liver, systemic lymphoma with secondary involvement of liver and hepatocellular carcinoma were seen. At the time of diagnosis true cut biopsy was not possible, because the patient was bleeding too much. Leucocytopenia and WBC count and other finding are normal. LDH is not done but Liver function test were drenched. Patient was very poor so IHC, H and E were not done. The pathological pictures were lost by the patient.

Although it is an aggressive disease, it is resectable and responsive to chemotherapy and radiotherapy. After six cycles of chemotherapy 95% response was seen. Because of the profound therapeutics, it should be considered in differential diagnosis of secondary liver cancer.

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