CASE REPORT

Primary testicular lymphoma: Two case reports and review of the literature

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INTRODUCTION

Primary testicular lymphoma (PTL) is an extranodal lymphoma in which primary origin is testis, and it accounts only 1-2% of all non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHL) and 1-9% of all testis tumors (1, 2). Most of the patients are above 60 years (3) and PTL is the most commonly seen neoplasm in this age group (4).

Here we present two cases with primary testicular lymphoma.

CASE REPORTS

Case 1

A 70 year-old male patient, was admitted to the urology outpatient clinic with rapid onset painful swelling on his right testis. On physical examination, right scrotal mass palpation with erythematous scrotum, immobile testis, decreased fluctuation and Prehn’s sign indicating orchitis were observed.

At diagnostic with scrotal ultrasonography (USG), there was diffuse enlargement and increased vascularisation of the right testis when compared with the left one. Testis parenchyma was reported as isoechoic.

There was no peripheric lymphadenopathy (LAP) or hepatosplenomegaly. Laboratory examinations showed hemoglobin 13.57 gr/dL (MCHV: 86.61 fL, MCH: 31 pg, MCHC: 36.27 g/dL); blood leucocyte: 4 500/mm³ (65% neutrophil, 35% lymphocyte); trombocytes: 2 100000/mm³; sedimentation rate: 5/h; serum reactive protein: 0.35 ng/ml; LDH: 212 UI/L (100-190); SGOT:35; SGPT: 42; GGT: 38 U/L. Tumor markers were negative: alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) 1.1 U/L and beta human chorionic globulin (HCG) 0.05 mU/ml. He was diagnosed as orchitis and given 2 week antibiotic and antiinflammatory treatment. At his control visit after treatment, acute symptoms as scrotal pain, testicular pain, and erythema were dissappeared. However, testis enlargement persisted and scrotal Doppler USG was performed again. There was reactive hydrocele, the right testis was larger than the left one with no vascularization difference and orchietomy was planned. Right high orchietomy was performed. At histopathological evaluation, the cells had large nucleus and some of them had prominent nucleolus. At immunohistochemistry analysis the neoplastic cells were CD20 and bcl2 positive; Bcl6, CD30 and ALK negative. Ki67 positivity was above 80% in the areas with good fixing. non-Hodgkin diffuse large B-cell lymphoma diagnosis was made (Figure 1).

The abdominopelvic, thorax and cranial CT were normal. He was in stage I and adjuvant chemotherapy was planned, 6 dose of cyclophosphamid, novantron, oncovin, prednisolone (CNOP) chemo-treatment was done. There was no pathology in abdominal and thorax CT, and no other accompanying pathology at 3 year follow up.

Case 2

An 82 year-old male patient was admitted to the urology outpatient clinic with fatigue for 3 months, back pain, painless swelling in his left testis. On physical examina-

KEY WORDS: Primary testicular lymphoma; Orchiectomy; Chemotherapy; Radiotherapy.

Submitted 18 December 2014; Accepted 31 July 2015

No conflict of interest declared.
tion, he was in normal general condition, well oriented
and cooperative, with good cognitive status. Blood pres-
sure was 110/60 mm Hg, pulse 76/minute, temperature
36.1 °C, costovertebral angle tenderness (CVAT) -/-,
suprapubic tenderness was positive and there was no
bladder overdistension. The right testis was in the scro-
tum with normal dimensions, and epididymis also pal-
pated normally. There was a big and hard mass of the left
testis. On digital rectal examination a +1 fibroadenoma
texture of prostate was found.
At diagnostic ultrasound, there was a diffuse enlarged
and vascularized left testis when compared with the right
side and testis parenchyma was isoechic.
At physical examination there was no peripheric LAP
or splenomegaly. His laboratory investigation results
were as follows: hemoglobin: 11.3 gr/dL (MCV 83.8 fL,
MCH 27.8 pg, MCHC 33.1 g/dL); blood leucocytes: 6760/ m m³ (65% neutrophil, 35% lymphocyte); throm-
bocytes: 225 000/m m³; sedimentation rate: 81/h; serum
reactive protein: 14 ng/ml; LDH: 443 UI/L (135-225),
SGOT: 21.8; SGPT: 7.07 UI/L. Tumor markers were neg-
ative: alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) 2 ng/m L (< 7) and beta
human chorionic globulin (HCG) 0.1 mU/mL (< 2).
Right inguinal orchiectomy was performed. At patholog-
ic examinations there were diffusely scattered, promi-
nently large, pleomorphic nuclei with irregular contour
and thin chromatin, some cells with multilobulated and
prominent nucleoulus, wide cytoplasmic cell neoplastic
lymphoid infiltration in testis tissue and spermatic cord.
The epididymis and rete testis tissue showed normal
morphologic appearance. At immunochemistry the cells
developed lesion were found CD20 (+) and CD3 (-).
For typization a wide histochemistry analysis was neces-
sary. The neoplastic cells were CD20 and bcl2 positive;
Bcl6, CD30 and ALK were negative; Ki67 positivity was
above 80% in the areas with good establishment. The
patient was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin high grade dif-
fuse large B-cell lymphoma.
At abdominopelvic tomography (CT) there was a 26 mm
diameter mass lesion with irregular contours at left renal
hilus level in the retroperitoneal area. The lesion was
adherent to the anterior surface of the psoas muscle. The
lower segmentary branch of the left renal artery was sur-
rounded by the mass lesion. There were multiple lyn-
phadenopathies in the left paraaortic region with maxi-
mum size 23 x 18 mm, edema in the extraperitoneal
region, and lymphadenopathies localized to interarota-
caval, retrocaval, bilateral common iliac, external and
internal iliac chain, with maximum diameter of 12 mm
(lymphoproliferative diseases/metastasis?) (Figure 2a).
The thorax and cranial CT were normal. The initial staging fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET examination showed a maximum 34 mm large LAP with hypermetabolic activity and increased uptake, pericardial inclusion, LAP with hypermetabolic activity at left renal hilus level and at internal and external iliac level. Mass lesion with hypermetabolic activity at the left testis of 65 x 33 mm dimension and multiple metastasis lesions at skeletal system were observed (Figure 2b).

According to those findings, the patient was classified as stage IV and a 6 dose rituximab, cyclofosfamide, epirubicin, vincristine, prednisolone, zoledronic acid with a 2 dose maintenance rituximab therapy was planned. After the 4th dose, FDG PET was performed to evaluate the response. There was total metabolic and morphologic response so the treatment protocol was continued.

At the end of the maintanance therapy, FDG PET was performed again. Total metabolic and morphologic response was confirmed (Figure 2c). At the second year follow up, there was a right axillary LAP at chest CT with a ground glass density nodule near to the pleura of the left lung, a mass lesion of the right surrenal gland and thickening of the left side.

Written consent was obtained from the patient and their relatives for publication of the study.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, as PTL is a rare disease, there is lack of data that can guide the treatment. However with the aid of retrospective data evaluation, better prognosis was obtained for nodal lymphoma. Despite the improvements in local and systemic disease central nervous system (CNS) relapse remains the worst complication. Strategies that may decrease the risk of PTL patients will end up with better prognosis.

Introduction, Discussion and Supplementary References are posted as Supplementary Materials on www.aiua.it

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