Myxoid Liposarcoma with Cartilagenous Differentiation

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ABSTRACT

Myxoid liposarcoma (MLPS) is an adipocytic tumour and second commonest among the types of liposarcoma. It exhibits a wide histological spectrum. It is important to be aware of this diversity of morphology in this tumour to prevent a wrong diagnosis. Heterologous differentiation in myxoid liposarcoma is reported; however, this is rare.

To date, seven cases of MLPS with cartilagenous differentiation have been reported. Only five of these were further confirmed by cytogenetic analysis. We are reporting the 8th case of MLPS with cartilagenous differentiation.

A 66-year female presented with posterior left thigh mass. Excision was done. Microscopic examination showed sheets of bland spindle cells containing round to oval nuclei and fine, delicate chicken-wire vessels. The firm blue appearing areas, which accounted for about 20% of the tumor volume, were characterised by mature hyaline cartilage. The final diagnosis was MLPS, showing prominent cartilagenous differentiation. Anterior and lateral margins were involved. Tumour was very close to the rest of the resection margins. FNCLCC grade was 1. Provisional pathological stage, as per staging system of the Union for International Cancer Control for extremity, was pT2.

Patient was examined by oncologists. Wide local excision is in plan as two margins were involved by the tumour, while rest of the margins were very close to tumour.

Key Words: Liposarcoma, Myxoid, Cartilagenous differentiation.

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INTRODUCTION

Liposarcoma is one of the most common sarcomas of adults. On the basis of microscopic features, it is classified as well differentiated/de-differentiated liposarcoma, myxoid liposarcoma (MLPS), and pleomorphic liposarcoma. MLPS makes up more than half of all reported liposarcomas. Recently, round cell differentiated pattern has been included in MLPS. Majority of patients present in middle age. Out of all liposarcomas, MLPSs occur in adolescents and young adults. It shows predilection for thigh. Grossly, it shows gelatinous surface and exhibits multinodularity. Diagnosis of MLPS is primarily based on the characteristic histology. It is well documented in literature that MLPS exhibits a broad histopathological spectrum. Majority of the cases exhibit classic morphology, i.e., well-demarcated lobulated tumours containing even distribution of relatively bland appearing fusiform cells and lipoblasts in abundant myxoid stroma.

Diversity of histologic patterns in MLPS can lead to misdiagnosis. Frithchie et al. described various microscopic appearances in 46 cases of MLPS. They identified variety of patterns, including chondroid metaplasia in 4% of their total cases.

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Other common patterns were classic myxoid, round cell and pseudocinar. DDI3 rearrangement was identified in cases with cartilagenous areas. In these cases, mature hyaline cartilage showed a sudden transition to conventional MLPS. Overt malignant features in the cartilagenous foci were not recognised.

A total of nine MLPSs with heterologous elements have been described in literature. In addition to chondroid differentiation, osseous and leiomyomatous differentiation have been reported. Enzinger and Winslow and Evans had described cartilagenous differentiation as a metaplastic phenomenon. In some studies, distinct distribution of both cartilagenous and myxoid liposarcomatous areas has been reported; while in other cases, gradual transition between the two were documented.

Cartilagenous and rhabdomyoblastic differentiation was reported by Kim et al. in a case report. Until now, hallmark fusion gene has been detected in only five cases. Details of mechanism for production of cartilage in MLPS are still unclear. Although FUS-DDIT3 fusion has been documented in both the liposarcomatous and cartilagenous areas in MLPS in various studies, there is difference in prognosis and proliferation activity from typical MLPS. These findings point to some other molecular mechanism for production of cartilagenous differentiation. This mechanism will become clearer, as more and more cases are reported.

Round cell component can be found in few cases of MLPS. It is linked to aggressive behaviour. According to latest reports, even 5% of round cell component upgrades the tumour grade.
A 66-year female presented with left thigh posterior aspect mass. Plain MRI thigh revealed a large, well defined, ovoid, heterogeneously enhancing mass lesion in subcutaneous tissue at posterolateral aspect of left thigh, causing marked anteromedial displacement of left biceps femoris muscle. It measured 9.3 x 4.7 x 2.4 cm. Ultrasound-guided biopsy from left thigh was reported as myxoid spindle cell neoplasm, favour MLPS. Excision was done. The specimen received was an measured 9.3 x 4.7 x 2.4 cm. Ultrasound-guided biopsy from left anteromedial displacement of left biceps femoris muscle. It tissue at posterolateral aspect of left thigh, causing marked necrosis and p53 over expression are well documented prog-
nostic factors. Importance of round cell component as a prog-
nostic factor was first identified by Enzinger and Winslow, which was further confirmed in follow-up studies. Microscopic details of cartilaginous areas were described in only a small number of cases. So far, cartilage has not been classified as benign or malignant. Ossification along with cartilage formation has also occurred consistently throughout various reported studies and many reports showed it in more than 90% of the MLPSs. In literature, the quantity of round cell component, tumour necrosis and p53 over expression are well documented prognostic factors. Importance of round cell component as a prog-
nostic factor was first identified by Enzinger and Winslow, which was further confirmed in follow-up studies. Microscopic details of cartilaginous areas were described in only a small number of cases. So far, cartilage has not been classified as benign or malignant. Ossification along with cartilage formation has also occurred consistently throughout various reported studies and many reports showed it in more than 90% of the MLPSs.
CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
No conflict of interest was reported.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION:
HT: Conception of idea, draft writing.
TS: Finalised the draft, critical review.
IS: Worked on idea, finalised the draft.

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