mixed germcell tumour with skin metastasis

Sir,

Metastatic carcinoma of skin has been reported in range of 0.2 to 9 percent. In general it is a poor prognostic sign. Mortality occurs within one year of identification of a metastatic skin lesion.

A 25-year-old male presented with abdominal lump for two months. On examination he had enlargement of testis on right side. 10x10 in size with loss of testicular sensation. Scrotal skin was normal. There was a mass palpable in epigastric region 8 x 10 cm in size non mobile. Other systems examination was normal.

Ultrasound Abdomen showed para-aortic lymph node enlargement which was of 10 x 11 cm in size. Ultrasound testis showed enlargement of testis on right side with diffuse echogenic pattern. He underwent a right high orchidectomy. Histopathological specimen showed non seminomatous mixed germ cell tumour (seminoma and endodermal sinus) (Fig. 1). He was started on chemotherapy (Ifosfamide, etoposide, and cisplatin) three weekly. After completion of first cycle, patient presented with skin lesion on left shoulder. FNAC from the skin lesion showed metastatic germcell tumour (Fig. 2). Haemogram, Serum biochemistry, X-ray chest were normal. Beta HCG level was 520 mIU/L and alfa fetoprotein was 860 ng/ml. Patient had progressive disease after chemotherapy and patient died of advanced disease.

There is wide disparity in estimating the incidence of cutaneous metastasis (range 0.04-9%) due to variability of data collection methodology and changes in cancer epidemiology at different areas. In males with age less than 40 years, the frequency of metastasis to skin in decreasing order is melanoma, colon, lung. Males with age more than 40 years the frequency of metastasis in decreasing order is lung, colon, oral squamous cell cancer, melanoma. For females less than 40 years of age metastasis to skin in decreasing order is breast, melanoma, colon, ovary and for more than 40 years of age breast, colon, lung, ovary, melanoma.

Most patients die within one year after the appearance of a cutaneous metastasis. In a study of 100 patients with skin metastasis showed an average of 2.6 months survival time in patients with lung cancer, survival time was 7.2 months for colon cancer, 9.5 months for bladder carcinoma 12.7 months in renal cell cancer, three months in those with carcinoma of cervix, 7.3 months in carcinoma of varying and 4.3 months in those with esophageal carcinoma. An approximately 3-15% patient have multiple skin metastasis.

Non-seminomatous germ cell usually metastasize to aortic group of lymph nodes, lung and brain. Metastasis to skin is very rare. To the best of our knowledge this is the first case of non-seminomatous germ cell tumour with skin metastasis to be reported.
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