Extramedullary Hematopoiesis in a Case of E-β Thalassaemia Presenting as a Hypogastric Mass

A 52 years old male, known case of E-β thalassaemia presented to Hematology OPD with low back pain. Past history revealed that he underwent splenectomy at the age of 30 years and never required blood transfusion except at the time of splenectomy. On clinical examination a lump was detected at the hypogastrium. A T2 weighted axial image of MRI showed mild hyperintense mass in pre-sacral region with compressed urinary bladder (Figs. 1 and 2). A CT-guided FNAC from that mass showed presence of all hematopoietic precursors confirming a diagnosis of extramedullary hematopoiesis (Fig. 3). Extramedullary hematopoiesis is a well known complication of thalassaemia and occurs predominantly in cases of thalassaemia intermedia. Most of the cases of E-β thalassaemia behaves as thalassaemia intermedia as this case was. It often leads to compression of vital structures. Treatment constitutes blood transfusion, local irradiation and hydroxyurea.

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