

Metastatic Squamous Cell Carcinoma of The Cervix Presenting As A Splenic Cyst

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Abstract

Squamous cell carcinoma metastatic to the spleen is a rare occurrence and has been reported mostly in autopsy series. Only two cases of carcinoma cervix with solitary metastasis to the spleen have been reported in living patients. Among these, the tumour was confined to the spleen in only one case, where as in the other it had extended to involve the pancreas and the left kidney and adrenal. We present a case of a 50 year old patient with carcinoma cervix, treated with radiotherapy in 1997. Four years after completion of primary treatment, she presented with a painful mass in the left hypochondrium. Exploratory laparotomy revealed a splenic cyst which on pathological examination was diagnosed as metastatic squamous cell carcinoma. The patient received chemotherapy and was alive four years later, at the time of writing of this report.

Key Words

Carcinoma Cervix, Spleen, Metastasis

Introduction

Spleen is a rare site for blood borne metastasis. In routine autopsy material 0.3% to 0.9% of the patients with carcinoma are found to have splenic involvement (1). It has been observed that splenic metastasis occurs only in patients with widely disseminated tumours and, therefore, it usually occurs late in the course of the disease. Carcinomas of the lung and breast comprise 30% to 67% of all splenic metastasis (2). Other common tumours metastasizing to the spleen are melanomas of the skin as well as carcinomas of the pancreas, large intestine, stomach and retro-peritoneal tumours (1-3). Moreover, splenomegaly, as the clinical manifestation of metastatic spread is extremely rare (4).

On the other hand, the most commonly reported sites of distant metastasis for carcinoma cervix include the lungs, bones, mediastinal and supraclavicular lymph nodes

(pelvic and para-aortic nodes comprise the regional lymph nodes) and the liver (5). Unusual metastases have been reported to the skin and soft tissues, gall bladder and pericardium (5). Recently, umbilical metastasis also has been reported (6). Squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix metastatic to the spleen is a rare occurrence and spleen as the solitary site of metastasis, clinically evident as splenomegaly, is rarer still (5, 7,8). We report a case of a squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix metastatic to the spleen presenting as a splenic cyst.

Case Report

A 50 year old Indian, Sikh female presented to the Department of Surgery, Government Medical College Jammu, J&K (India), in September 2001 with a 6 month history of pain and heaviness in the left hypochondrium. The symptoms had intensified in the preceding month and there was accompanying fever which was moderate