

## **Abstract**

**Background:** Hepatocellular carcinoma is the commonest primary liver carcinoma in the world. (1) It is associated with multiple risk factors. Most common risk factors are chronic hepatitis B, C, D infections, alcohol, aflatoxins, hereditary metabolic liver diseases, and autoimmune hepatitis etc. It is mostly developed in the setting of chronic inflammation of the liver that has led to liver cirrhosis.(2,3) There is a huge range of clinical features from asymptomatic to life threatening variceal bleeding with underlying features of liver cell disease .We present a case of hepatocellular carcinoma presented only as prolonged fever without any other clinical manifestations.

**Case presentation:** Mr K.P.L.Amarasingha a 62year old previously well gentleman presented with intermittent low grade fever for four weeks duration and constitutional symptoms without any symptoms of chronic liver cell disease. He did not have any significant high-risk factors for hepatocellular carcinoma. On examination he was pale and there were no peripheral stigmata of liver diseases. Other examination findings are also normal. His Hb- 9.8 g/dl, ESR-112mm, CRP-120mg/dl. SGOT-100u/l, SGPT-45u/l, Alkaline phosphatase-301u/l, Total bilirubin-1 mg/dl, Total protein-6.6g/dl,Albumin-3.3g/dl, globulin 3.3g/dl, INR-1, LDH-331u/l. Serum Alpha feto protein>1000 ng/ml. CECT abdomen confirmed the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma with portal venous invasion. Multidisciplinary approach was taken and patient was managed palliatively.

**Conclusion:** It is well recognized that paraneoplastic syndrome is caused by the humoral factors which are produced by the neoplastic cells. Our patient presented only with prolonged fever and high CRP without any features of liver cell diseases which are not commonly observed in hepatocellular carcinoma. These were suspected to be due to inflammatory cytokines. Though it is not diagnostic Naproxen challenge may be useful in differentiating prolonged fever in a setting of suspected underlying cancer (5) in a situation like this.

**Keywords:** hepatocellular carcinoma, prolonged fever, Chronic liver disease