

A rare case of paraneoplastic cholestasis as the first presentation in a patient with Hodgkin's lymphoma - A case report

Abstract

Background

Although jaundice in lymphoma is not a rare occurrence, Hodgkin's lymphoma manifesting as paraneoplastic cholestasis is seldomly reported in literature. We describe a case of paraneoplastic cholestasis presenting with cholestatic jaundice in a young girl.

Case presentation

A 24 year old female with a past history of type 2 diabetes mellitus complained of symptoms of obstructive jaundice with nocturnal pyrexia, loss of weight and loss of appetite for 3 months. On examination she was deeply icteric with multiple scratch marks and bilateral multiple, firm and non-tender cervical and axillary lymph nodes. Investigations revealed cholestatic hepatitis with acute liver failure without any intra or extra hepatic biliary obstruction or neoplastic involvement of the liver. Histology of cervical lymph node and Positron emission tomography scan confirmed the diagnosis of nodular sclerosing Hodgkin's lymphoma. After excluding other causes for cholestatic hepatitis, (anatomical, neoplastic and infectious) a diagnosis of paraneoplastic cholestasis was made and patient made a remarkable improvement of her cholestasis both clinically and biochemically just after 3 cycles of chemotherapy.

Conclusion

Jaundice can manifest as the first presentation in patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma. Paraneoplastic cholestasis should be considered as an important differential diagnosis in such instances and specifically when there is no apparent cause to be found.

Keywords: Hodgkin's lymphoma, paraneoplastic cholestasis, idiopathic intra hepatic cholestasis, vanishing bile duct syndrome