

## **Abstract**

Parathyroid carcinoma is a rare malignancy which causes primary hyperparathyroidism predominantly affecting 45–55-year age group with equal incidence in both genders<sup>1</sup>. The major clinical manifestations of parathyroid carcinoma include parathyroid crisis in 12%, neck mass in 34 to 52 %, bone disease in 34 to 73 %, renal disease in 32 to 70 %, pancreatitis in 0-15 % and 2-7 % of patients can be asymptomatic<sup>4-8</sup>.

Hyper parathyroid crisis is manifested as central nervous system dysfunction due to severe hypercalcemia which is usually more than 14mg/dl. Their parathyroid hormone (PTH) concentrations on average will be 20 times the upper limit of normal<sup>3</sup>.

Here we present a 44-year-old previously healthy male presenting with parathyroid crisis causing symptomatic severe hypercalcemia refractory to medical therapy succumbed to his death at day seven of admission. Postmortem examination revealed right side inferior parathyroid mass which was confirmed to be parathyroid carcinoma from histology.

In conclusion even though uncommon, parathyroid carcinoma should be considered as a possibility in patients with primary hyperparathyroidism who presents with parathyroid crisis. The treatment of severe hypercalcemia refractory to initial medical therapy is really challenging until surgical intervention is arranged especially in a resource limited setting. This case report emphasizes importance of early identification and treatment to prevent adverse outcome and death in such instances. This case report will be helpful to fill the gap of reported Sri Lankan patients with parathyroid carcinoma in the medical literature.