
Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in a Patient with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Abstract

Background

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease with multisystem involvement. The liver involvement in Rheumatoid arthritis could either be due to autoimmune diseases of the liver, amyloidosis or drug related, more commonly Methotrexate. In addition, these rheumatological illnesses are associated with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Methotrexate was also associated with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis like picture in liver histology.

Case presentation

We present a case of a fifty-six years old female patient with past history of diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis presented to a district general hospital in central province with joint pains and developed malaise, constipation, anorexia and gradual onset of drowsiness during hospital stay. She has developed short term memory loss with dark color urine. She had been icteric and pale with a hepatomegaly. There was constructional apraxia. She had conjugated hyperbilirubinemia and liver biopsy revealed macro vesicular steatosis. She responded well to liver failure regime.

Conclusion

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is associated with both rheumatoid arthritis and Methotrexate therapy, but in the presence of strong risk factors like diabetes, cannot be particularly attributed to one risk factor and it is safe to label as multifactorial.

Key words: Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Methotrexate