

Abstract

Background

Paraneoplastic neurological manifestations which are diverse, can affect any part of the central nervous system. Paraneoplastic cochleovestibulopathy is a rare phenomenon which can present as progressive sensorineural deafness. Although central nervous system lymphoma commonly causes hearing loss, paraneoplastic hearing loss in relation to lymphoma is very rarely reported.

Case presentation

We report the case of sudden onset bilateral sensorineural hearing loss in a 70 years old lady on her first presentation with bilateral cervical lymphadenopathy and anemia. Diagnostic work up revealed a high grade lymphoma with a cold type autoimmune hemolytic anemia. Audiometry showed bilateral severe to profound hearing loss and MRI Brain excluded cranial involvement of the neoplasm.

Conclusion

Paraneoplastic cochleovestibulopathy is a very rare manifestation of lymphoma. Although underlying mechanism is not fully understood, sudden sensorineural hearing loss should prompt the physician to consider an underlying lymphoma even it precedes the diagnosis. Early recognition of paraneoplastic neurological syndrome will lead to early discovery and treatment of underlying tumour which is a crucial step in management of a cancer patient.