

Case Report



Description and management of non-metastatic thoracic myxofibrosarcoma: a case report

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Abstract

Myxofibrosarcoma is a soft tissue sarcoma (STS) prevailing in the elderly and is associated with metastasis and mortality. In this case, an 88-year-old male is presented with a progressively enlarging mass in the posterior thorax. The physical examination revealed a solid, irregular, painful mass on palpation. Doppler ultrasonography and high-resolution computed tomography (CT) scan revealed a 60 × 38 mm hypoechoic tumor in the left paraspinal thoracic area with a little vascularity with no adherence and invasion. Radical excisional surgery was performed. The histopathology findings were in line with myxofibrosarcoma except for CD34. He underwent high dose radiotherapy due to the reported not assessable margins at one side. The patient was asymptomatic and recurrent free in the 12 months follow up assessment. It was the first known case of the non-metastatic intermediate grade of myxofibrosarcoma in the thorax. Due to its deceptive findings, myxofibrosarcoma should always be considered in the assessment of chest wall tumors.

Keywords: Myxofibrosarcoma, Thorax, Surgical resection, Soft tissue neoplasms, Radiation therapy

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Introduction

Myxofibrosarcoma is a kind of soft tissue sarcoma (STS) that one of the most common neoplasms of the limbs of elderly patients reported in the 1970th (1). Although both genders are involved, the prevalence of myxofibrosarcoma among males is higher than females. Myxofibrosarcoma is considered as a common neoplasm of dermal and subcutaneous tissues (1). The signs of myxofibrosarcoma depend on painless mass, slow-growing, skin-colored, or erythematous nodules or tumors (1). Prognostic determinants for this cancer and metastasis-free survival depend on the tumor mass at surgery, histological grade, positive surgical resection margins, percentage of necrosis, and mitotic rate (2). In this case report, an 88-year-old man is presented with a progressively enlarging mass in the posterior thorax without metastasis, and the histological grade was moderately differentiated. The radical surgery and adjuvant Radiotherapy were performed and maintained good health after 12 months follow up.

Case Presentation

The patient was an 88-year-old man referred to Reza

radiotherapy and oncology center in December 2018, with a progressive swelling in the scapula. He reported no salient sickness in his recent medical history. He had Alzheimer's disease for four years before admission and took memantine and donepezil for his condition. The laboratory tests had not remarkable abnormality regarding hormones, urinalysis, and biochemistry except low fasting blood sugar, alkaline phosphatase, and electrolyte disturbances (Table 1). He did not report any significant weight loss. The tumor was illustrated in July 2018 by the patient, which progressively increased in size, reaching the size of an apple (based on the patient's words). The physical examination revealed a large mass in the posterior thoracic area between the scapulas. The tumor was painful in palpation with irregular borders and no mobility. The vital signs of the patient were normal. He did not report smoking or alcohol consumption in the past. He had prostate surgery 20 years ago due to benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) and reported a positive family history for cancer (cervical cancer in his mother in the eighth decade of her life). Based on the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) scoring, he was categorized

Table 1. The First Patient's Lab Test Report on July 27, 2018

Test Name	Result	Reference Range
Biochemistry		
Fasting blood sugar (FBS)	67*	70-105 mg/dL
Cholesterol	164	Desirable risk: <200 mg/dL
HDL	49	Men: Low Risk >50 mg/dL
LDL	102	Desirable risk <100 mg/dL
Triglyceride	49	Normal: up to 150 mg/dL
SGOT (AST)	19	Up to 40 U/L
SGPT (ALT)	10	Up to 40 U/L
Alkaline phosphatase	283*	Men: up to 270 U/L
Na ⁺ (sodium)	154*	135-145 mEq/L
K ⁺ (potassium)	5.0*	>7 years old: 3.6-4.8 mEq/L
P (phosphate)	2.7	Adults: 2.5-4.7 mg/dL
Ca	10.1	8.6-10.3 md/dl
Hormones & Vitamins		
T.S.H	0.882	0.3 - 4.5 mIU/l
T3	138.9	69 - 215 ng/dL
PSA	0.95	Up to 4 ng/mL
HBS-Ag	Positive (+)	-
HBS-Ab	7.61 (-)	Negative: <9 unit/mL
Anti-HCV	Negative (-)	-
HIV (1&2)	Negative (-)	-
Vitamin D ₃ (25-OH)	53.1	Sufficiency: 30-150 ng/mL
Vitamin B12	498	191-663 pq/mL
Serology		
PPD skin test (TB)	Negative (-)	Negative: <5

in the “symptomatic, <50% in bed during the day” status. His body mass index was 16.4 kg/m² (weight=42 kg, height=160 cm). The Color doppler ultrasonography and computed tomography (CT) scan revealed a 60 × 38 mm hypoechoic tumor in the left paraspinal thoracic area with no adherence and invasion (Figure 1).

The gross analysis expressed two irregular tan and brown fragments of soft to elastic tissue with marked myxoid changes measuring 8 × 8 × 4 cm in aggregate. The microscopic examination reported a malignant spindle cell neoplasm composed of moderately atypical, pleomorphic cells with a few giant tumor cells, 1MF/10hpf, and fascicular or reticular arrangement with extensive myxoid changes and areas of necrosis and hemorrhage (Figure 2). The immunohistochemistry (IHC) findings in myxofibrosarcoma cells have shown the negative SMA, S-100, desmin, and CD34 but strongly positive for vimentin (Figure 3). Based on the histopathological features and IHC results, the tumor was diagnosed as myxofibrosarcoma. The International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O) code determined as C:493 M:8811/32. After surgery, he underwent radiation therapy as adjuvant therapy. Due to the unclear surgical margin on one side at the pathological report, treatment at maximum radiation dose on 3d conformal radiation therapy by a high energy linear accelerator machine (LINAC) was chosen. The radiotherapy protocol was a total dose of 66 grays in 33 sessions. After 12 months of follow up, he had no significant side effects and did not show any local

recurrence (LR) or distant metastasis (DM) by spiral high-resolution CT scan.

Discussion

Myxofibrosarcoma is recognized as the usual common malignant mesenchymal neoplasm in elderly patients, with slight male predominance. It regularly presents as painless, slow-growing, skin-colored, or erythematous nodules or tumors. Most lesions are positioned in the lower limbs and infrequently on the trunk, head, and neck, with a high rate of LR of 50%-60% (3,4). The recurrence of



Figure 1. Doppler ultrasonography Imaging assessments revealed a 60 × 38 mm hypoechoic tumor in the left paraspinal thoracic area with a little vascularity with no adherence and invasion.

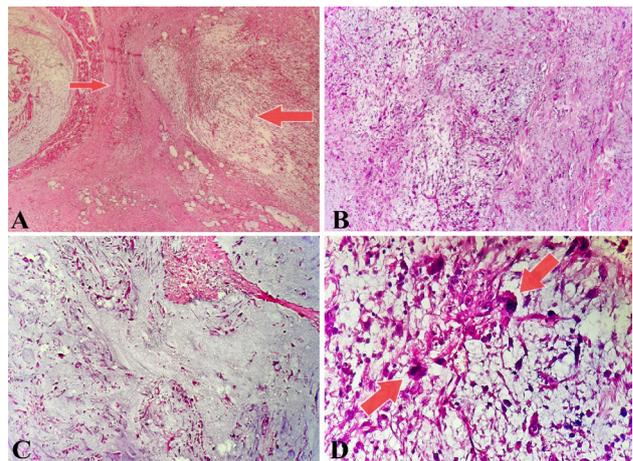


Figure 2. Histopathological images with hematoxylin and eosin stain. A: Two-component of myxofibrosarcoma, myxoid area (thin arrow), the fascicular or reticular arrangement with extensive myxoid changes and areas of necrosis and hemorrhage and cellular area (thick arrow). (×40). B: cellular component (×100), C: myxoid component (×100), D: The atypical cells in the cellular area of myxofibrosarcoma, a malignant spindle cell neoplasm composed of moderately atypical, pleomorphic cells with a few giant tumor cells (×400).

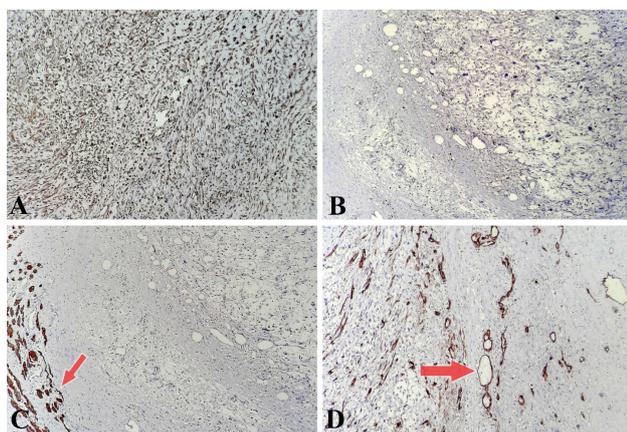


Figure 3. Immunohistochemical reactivity of the tumor cells. Strongly positive for vimentin (A); However, negative for S100 (B), desmin (C), and CD-34 (D). As much as possible, internal control was seen for desmin, and CD34 staining was detected in vascular endothelial cells rather than in tumor cells, highlighting the curvilinear capillaries.

well-differentiated myxofibrosarcoma grade happens in 64% (5). However, distal metastases are significantly more common with high-grade myxofibrosarcoma at a rate of 33% (6).

The diagnosis of myxofibrosarcoma is histopathological, and tumors are categorized as low, intermediate, and high grade based predominantly on the level of cellularity (and the appearance of a non-myxoid element) (3,6). The first cell is characterized by the presence of hyperchromatic and pleomorphic cells with extensive myxoid areas. Moderate tumors are associated with recurrent cellular nuclear atypia. Finally, poorly differentiated tumors are solid, pleomorphic cells with numerous mitoses, areas of hemorrhage, and necrosis (3).

The histopathological characteristics of low-grade myxofibrosarcoma, which is also called Evans tumor, include hyalinizing spindle cells with giant rosettes. Low-grade myxofibrosarcoma is a well-defined, slow-growing, painless mass (5). The median mass size is 6 cm by imaging but may differ from 1 cm to 18 cm (5).

Imaging sometimes provides a histologically definitive diagnosis of STS subtypes and helps in the evaluation of local and DM of the lesion. Chest X-ray is valuable as a screening mechanism, although CT of the thorax is more sensitive to detect pulmonary metastasis. Other useful devices, such as positron emission tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging help detect metastasis in patients with poorly differentiated tumors (7).

No etiologic agents have been clearly defined for STS. Genetic factor plays a role in the onset and progression of sarcomas. It is believed that genetic mutation in mesenchymal pluripotent stem cells creates malignant clones that lead to STS formation (7). Mutations in tumor suppressor genes such as p53, RB-1, and oncogenes have also been linked to STS and may also be involved in its

prognosis (7). Other risk factors include exposure to dose-dependent radiation, lipidemia, any exposure to chlorophenols, and more. Some hereditary diseases such as retinoblastoma, type 1 neurofibromatosis, and Gardner's syndrome have STS as an element (7).

The clinical signs associated with the diagnosis of STS are non-specific (7). Due to the low specificity of IHC in myxofibrosarcoma, it plays a restricted role in the determination of myxofibrosarcoma, except to exclude other tumor species in the differential diagnosis (6). The muscle markers, including HHH35, and calponin, are positive in myxofibrosarcoma cells (5). Myxofibrosarcoma cells are usually negative for cytokeratin, CD16, CD68, c-kit (CD117), bcl2, ALK, SMA, desmin, S100, AE1/3, EMA, STAT6, HMB-45, MUC4 and positive for CD99, CD34, MDM2, Vimentin, and CDK4 (8).

In this paper, despite other studies (1,3,8) for the first time, immunohistochemical staining was negative for CD34 in this type of cancer after twice repeated.

Fukui et al (8) reported an 81-year-old man with advanced lung cancer that combined with mediastinal myxofibrosarcoma, that radiation therapy was performed with 39 grays for left iliac bone; However, chemotherapy was performed by pembrolizumab as first-line treatment.

Sugiura et al (9) reported a 74-year-old woman who had LR at 10, 19, 23, and 28 months after primary surgery. Radiation therapy at 45 grays for a tumor that was penetrated the main pulmonary artery resulted in failure after the fourth surgery and died 34 months after the first surgery.

This unexpected disease is usually treated with high-dose radiation. According to studies, doses of 63 grays or more are recommended to improve disease-free survival and overall survival (10). However, the same article noted that patients who received >68 grays of radiation had significantly higher complications than those who received a lower dose (10). Our study presents a radiotherapy protocol that a total dose of 66 grays in 33 sessions. During treatment, no severe side effects, including skin reactions and other toxic reactions, were observed. Therefore, chemotherapy was prevented because of aging. After 10 months of follow-up, he had no significant adverse events and showed no LR or DM by high-resolution CT.

Conclusion

This case was the first sample of a myxofibrosarcoma tumor with moderately differentiated without metastasis, and for the first time, a treatment protocol is presented. Due to its deceptive findings, myxofibrosarcoma should always be considered in the assessment of chest wall tumors.

Conflicts of Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors Contribution

AHA, and AmA, participated in the design of this study.

FHM carried out the study with AHA, and they collected important background information and drafted the manuscript.

AIA was the pathologist who evaluated, described, and provided the specimen's H&E and IHC images. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Informed Consent

Informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of the report.

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