An Atypical Etiology of Mediastinal Lymphadenopathy: Extraskeletal Ewing Sarcoma

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Abstract

Background: Ewing’s sarcomas and peripheral primitive neuroectodermal tumors are high grade malignant neoplasms, arising from bone and soft tissues and are grouped in the Ewing family of tumors. Primary localization in the mediastinum is extremely rare and was treated in only a few case reports. Lymphatic localization has never been reported.

Case presentation: A 24 year old man was admitted to our institution for persistent cough, nocturnal diaphoresis, and weight loss of 6 kg. The chest X-ray displayed opacity of the left hilum at polycyclic contours. Chest computed tomography scan confirmed supradiaphragmatic lymphadenopathy in the hilar and anterior mediastinal. Biopsy was performed. Histological and immunohistochemical analysis showed small and round cells tumor with positive staining for CD99 and vimentin, and negative staining of desmine, myogenine, actine muscle lisse, Proteine S-100, Chromogranine, CD56, pancytokeratin, myeloperoxidase and TTF1. Young age, morphological and immunohistological characters argued in favor of a tumor of Ewing group. We could not perform molecular cytogenetic analysis, because of the lack of technical structure. The staging was negative for any other metastatic disease or primary bone tumor, and final diagnosis was primary localized Ewing sarcoma in mediastinal nodes. The patient received Ewing’s sarcoma chemotherapy regimen. Complete response was achieved after six courses. Radiotherapy was prescribed, and the same chemotherapy regimen was continued totaling a period of one year. The patient was well with no evidence of local relapse or metastasis three years after diagnosis.

Conclusion: Extraskeletal Ewing sarcoma should be contemplated in the differential diagnosis of mediastinal lymphadenopathy. With multimodal treatment, the patients are potentially curable.

Keywords: Ewing’s sarcoma; Extraskeletal; Mediastinum; Lymphatic; Chemotherapy

Abbreviations:

ES: Ewing’s sarcomas; PNets: Peripheral Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumors; LDH: Lactate Dehydrogenase; HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus; IDR: Intradermal Reaction; TTF1: Thyroid Transcription Factor 1; ESFT: Ewing Sarcoma Family of Tumors; EES: Extraskeletale Ewing Sarcoma; NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network; EFS: Eavement Free Survival; OES: Osseous Ewing Sarcoma

Introduction

Ewing’s sarcomas and peripheral primitive neuroectodermal tumors (ES/PNETs) are high grade malignant neoplasms, arising from bone and soft tissues and are grouped in the Ewing family of tumors. Primary localization of ES/PNET in the mediastinum is extremely rare and was treated in only a few case reports. Lymphatic localization has not studied. We present a case of an inoperable primary Ewing sarcoma arising from lymphadenopathy in the hilar and anterior mediastinal regions with literature review.
respectively (Figure 2a and 2b). Biopsy was performed under radiological guidance, and a histological analysis showed that the tumor was composed of small and round cells with round nuclei, fine chromatin and scanty granular cytoplasm. Immunohistochemical analysis revealed positive staining for CD99 and vimentin (Figures 3a and 3b) and negative staining of desmine, myoglobin, AML (actine muscle lisse), protein S-100, chromogranine, synaptophysine, CD56, pancytokeratin, myeloperoxidase, TTF1 and LCA (leucocyte antigen). Based on these findings, an ES/PNET was diagnosed. Abdominal pelvic CT scan, bone scintigraphy and bone marrow biopsy were negative for any other metastatic disease or primitive bone tumor. Consequently, final diagnosis was primary localized ES in mediastinal nodes.

Discussion

Ewing sarcoma and PNET were the second etiology of bone cancers. It is a heterogeneous group of tumors, defined by histological and immunohistochemical similarities. It is a group of high-grade small round blue cell tumors, characterized by strong membrane expression of CD99 in a chain-mail pattern and negativity for lymphoid (CD45), neuroblastoema (neurofilament protein) and rhabdomyosarcoma (myogenin, desmin, actin) markers. Although separately described and although to be distinct malignancies, both these tumors arise from a common precursor cell: neuroectodermal cells, with variable differentiation (albeit in different degree). Ewing’s sarcoma tends to be poorly differentiated, whereas PNET most often shows definite neuroectodermal differentiation.

Ewing’s sarcoma, Askin’s tumor, and PNET are now considered together as members of the Ewing sarcoma family of tumors (ESFTs) characterized by the presence of the pathognomonic translocation t (11; 22) (q24; q12) resulting from the fusion of the EWS gene on chromosome 22 and an ETS-type gene especially the FLI1 gene on chromosome 11, are implicated in the great majority of cases [1,2]. Ewing sarcoma is typically arising in the bones (called osseous Ewing’s sarcomas OES), rarely in soft tissues defining what we call extraskeletal Ewing sarcoma (EES) or called extraosseous Ewing sarcoma.

First described by Tefft et al. in five young children, all of whom presented with signs and symptoms of epidural cord compression and a paravertebral soft tissue mass [3], extraskeletal Ewing sarcoma predominantly involves chest wall, lower extremities, retroperitoneum and paravertebral region [4]. Primary localization of EES in the mediastinum is extremely rare [5,6], and mediastinal nodal EES was not described in our knowledge.

Prognostic factors and outcomes of EES are similar to that of primary osseous Ewing’s sarcomas [7,8]. Several studies demonstrated the prognostic impact of primary site and size at diagnosis. However, in recent studies, these two factors appear to have a non-significant prognostic value, probably related to the intensive neoadjuvant chemotherapy and improvement of local control therapy. Suboptimal histologic response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy, defined as less than 95% tumor necrosis, can be considered a good prognostic factor. Some studies demonstrated the prognostic impact of age, serum lactate dehydrogenase LDH rate, resection margins, type of local treatment and type of translocation [8]. Normal LDH, and absence of metastatic disease at the time of presentation are the indicators of favorable prognosis for this location that supported by the good response after chemotherapy alone.
The patient characteristics differ between EES and skeletal tumors. Patients with EES have a higher mean age, but also a bimodal distribution with EES more commonly found in those older than 35 and less than 5 years compared with skeletal tumors. Other important differences were noted. Patients with EES were less likely to be male, white or have pelvic primary tumors, though more likely to have tumors arising in other axial locations [9]. Patients often present with a painless mass or vague abdominal or chest pain depending on tumor site [1]. Those with metastatic disease may have fever, weight loss, fatigue, and elevated markers of inflammation [1,10]. Spontaneous hemorrhage can lead to rapid growth of a mass or mimic an acutely painful abdomen [10].

In our report, we describe a case of a man with a symptomatic mediastinal and hilar lymphadenopathy for which multiple painful abdomen [10]. Micrometastasis by chemotherapy [6,13].

The standard treatment used in the bone Ewing's sarcoma can achieve a good therapeutic effect in EES [12], this is a typical example of the multimodality approach in cancerology including chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy based comprehensive treatment. A few retrospective studies showed that the treatment modality which patients accepted had a significant effect on the prognosis could improve the survival rate, the local control rate in margin positive patients by radiotherapy, and could eliminate micrometastasis by chemotherapy [6,13]. The treatment recommended by 2015 NCCN ESFT guidelines is the following protocol: multiagent chemotherapy followed by local control therapy (surgery and / or radiotherapy) and adjuvant treatment. Multidrug combination chemotherapy is recommended and the preferred regimens include vincristine, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide alternating with ifosfamide and etoposide. The OES protocol improved survival rate and EFS of patients with EES probably because of the use of pulsed, more intensive anthracycline-containing [14].

Surgery and radiotherapy are the local control treatment modalities used for patients with localized disease. There have been no randomized studies that have compared these two modalities treatment. The choice of the local control therapy should be individualized and is dependent on tumor location, size, and response to chemotherapy, anticipated morbidity and patient preference.

These items have influenced the choice of local treatment of our patient; the first surgical difficulties of the mediastinal area, and complete response to chemotherapy were spared the patient a morbid surgery. Radiotherapy dose was found to influence local control in non-metastatic Ewing sarcoma treated with chemotherapy and definitive radiotherapy. In particular, patients who received RT doses \( \geq 49 \) Gray for tumor size \( < 8 \) cm and \( \geq 54 \) Gy for tumor size \( > 8 \) cm had improved local control [15] which justify radiotherapy of consolidation at dose of \( 54 \) Gy in our patient.

**Conclusion**

Primary EES appears to be a distinct clinicopathologic entity that can be distinguished from the other common round cell tumors arising in soft tissues of young adults. The localization of mediastinal node was never described and should be contemplated in the differential diagnosis of mediastinal lymphadenopathy. With multimodality treatment combined high-dose irradiation and chemotherapy, the patients are potentially curable.

**Authors' Contributions**

CE and MR K Conceived of the idea and drafted the manuscript, CE, MR K and MZ did the research and oncological data collection. CE, MT and RT did patient oncological follow up. HC and MO performed the histopathological examinations and pathological data collection. RT, HE and MI have contributed in supervision and guidance of manuscript. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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**References**


