

Malignant Lymphoma of the Wrist: Case Report

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Abstract

Primary lymphoma in the joint is rare. In the case presented from The Netherlands, lymphoma was found coincidentally during knee-joint replaced surgery. Therefore, the present case from Nigeria concerns the wrist. Apparently, it followed a fall on the hand. In conclusion, this rare phenomenon is open to research.

Keywords: Lymphoma; Wrist; Boy; Nigeria

Introduction

Primary lymphoma of the joint is rare. In the case presented from The Netherlands, lymphoma was found coincidentally in the synovium during knee joint replacement surgery in a 69-year-old woman with rheumatoid arthritis [1]. Therefore, this case report from Nigeria in which the wrist was involved is deemed to be worthy of documentation.

Case Report

EO, a 13-year-old girl, was seen by the junior author (RO) at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, at Nnewi, Nigeria, with the complaint of swelling of the left wrist of 3 months duration. This was preceded by a fall sustained on the left hand. The swelling had been opened in a peripheral Hospital before coming to the Teaching Hospital. Incision biopsy of a soft tissue tumor was undertaken. It was queried as chondrosarcoma.

The senior author (WO) received the specimen which measured 2.5 cm across. It was processed in the usual manner. Microscopy revealed diffuse infiltration by a round celled growth which formed sheets without obvious differentiation such as the starry-sky appearance or Reed-Sternberg one. Malignant lymphoma was diagnosed.

Discussion

This case concerns a patient of the Igbo ethnic group [2]. It followed what was advocated in Birmingham (UK), namely, that the establishment of a histopathology data pool facilitates epidemiological analysis [3]. In this context, it was from such a pool headed by the senior author (WO) that the diagnosis was made.

Incidentally, there was debate in the UK as to whether a distant hospital could benefit from a central Laboratory [4]. This has been vitiated in our experience [5].

From Greece, lymphoma presented as a soft tissue mass from the popliteal cavity of the knee [6]. In this context, an interesting case from the UK was of lymphoma presenting atypically as periprosthetic joint infection in a Total Hip Replacement [7].

Conclusion

From the present local case and the few gleaned from the Internet, it is apparent that lymphoma of the joint is a rarity. The reason for this is open to research.

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