



C0579 - What Lies Beneath the Skin? A Rare Cause of Acute Liver Failure

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Introduction

- Malignant melanoma of the liver is a rare cause of acute liver failure despite the liver being the most common affected organ by metastatic melanomas.
- Liver metastasis may occur months to years after the primary lesion is removed.
- Severe coagulopathy, as may be present in acute liver failure, might be a challenge while performing liver biopsy.
- Herein a case of a male with abnormal liver chemistries and a liver mass diagnosed as metastatic melanoma.

Case Presentation

- Case of a 65-year-old male with history of a right mastoid melanoma s/p excision who was lost to follow-up with dermatology for several years and who presented to ER with complaints of abdominal pain, left ocular pain with decreased vision, and bone aches.
- Patient reported anorexia and 30 pounds weight loss. Initial labs showed abnormal liver chemistries.
- Abdominal CT scan showed a large infiltrating mass occupying most of the left liver lobe, with encasing vessels, and thrombosis of the left hepatic vein.
- Head CT showed large soft tissue masses in the left intraconal compartment causing mass effect upon the optic nerve and eye globe with associated proptosis. Metastatic disease was suspected.
- IR service was consulted for liver biopsy, however he first required treatment for his coagulopathy.
- On site prep was performed by cytotechnologist and pathologist, who deemed the sample appropriate for diagnosis and with features of a melanoma.

Case Presentation

- Patient was diagnosed with a metastatic melanoma of the liver leading to acute liver failure.
- Unfortunately, patient had rapid deterioration and progression of disease, making him a poor candidate for palliative immuno-radiotherapy, and was placed under hospice care.

Images



Figure 1a. CT Abd/pelvis Coronal plane-Left Liver Lobe infiltrating mass.

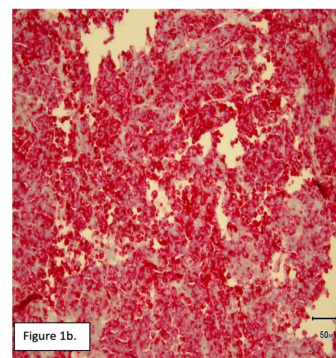


Figure 1b. Immunohistochemistry-Triple Melanoma cocktail



Figure 1c. PET Scan-Hypermetabolic lesions involving ocular compartment and liver.

Discussion

- Diffuse liver infiltration by a melanoma is an extremely rare cause of acute liver failure, often presenting aggressively, leading to a poor prognosis and a high mortality.
- Recurrence of malignancy after a long period of time is often reported despite patient's having previously achieved remission of their primary cancer.
- For this reason, metastatic liver cancer should be considered in patients with history of another primary malignancy.
- Hepatic resection has been proposed as therapeutic and potentially curative procedure.
- Closer follow up and early detection with liver biopsy would have been helpful in establishing an early diagnosis, leading to favorable treatment options and survival.

References

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