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Skeletal Metastasis in Carcinoma Penis Case Report with Review of Literature



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Abstract

Bone metastases are rare in carcinoma penis mostly localized in the axial skeleton. We here present patient of carcinoma penis who progressed to multiple bony sites after surgery in short time interval within 6 months.

Keywords: Carcinoma penis; Bone metastasis; Palliation

Introduction

1% of male cancers is constituted by penile cancers and most common histological type is squamous cell carcinoma in 95% cases [1,2]. It commonly occurs in 6th decade. Carcinoma penis is usually a localized disease with metastases occurring in<3– 5% of patients [1,2]. Inguinal nodes followed by iliac nodes are commonly involved. Most common sites for distal metastases are retroperitoneal lymph nodes but bone involvement is rare [3,4]. Occurrence of bone metastases is usually localized to axial skeleton. Reports of bone metastasis in appendicular skeletal regions from carcinoma penis has been are very few. In the present study we report case of patient with carcinoma penis presenting with appendicular bone metastases (sacral, ischial metastasis and tarsal region).

Case Presentation

48 years male who was previously diagnosed with carcinoma penis underwent partial penectomy. Post-operative histopathology reported well differentiated squamous cell carcinoma (Figure 1). Patient defaulted and presented to Radiation Oncology outpatient department with complaints of severe pain and swelling in right lower limb. On Clinical examination there was fungating inguinal node with satellite nodules in right inguinal region (Figures 2 & 3), pain score (Numeric rating scale 8/10). He also had tenderness in right ankle region.

There were no signs of deep vein thrombosis. Patient underwent contrast enhanced computer tomography of abdomen and pelvis which reported left side pleural effusion and mass lesion 5.4cm in right side pelvic region.

Whole body Radionuclide bone scan was done suggestive of osteoblastic lesion in right superior and inferior pubic rami, bilateral sacral ala, and Right tarsal bone (Figure 4). In view of poor performance status, patient was considered for palliative radiotherapy to metastatic bone lesions and supportive care.

Discussion

Most common histology in carcinoma penis is squamous cell carcinoma other rare malignant lesions are basal cell carcinoma, Malignant melanoma, Sarcoma, M. Paget, Lymphoreticular tumours and metastases. Risk factors include low standards of hygiene, phimosis, recurrent balanitis, high number of sexual partners (early age at first sexual intercourse), presence of HPV infection, circumcision practice, strong tobacco consumption, genital ultraviolet radiation, and penile trauma. Inguinal lymph node involvement occurs early in penile carcinoma. The metastatic potential is largely dependent upon the initial tumor [3]. Bone metastases has been reported in spine [4], femur [5], ischium [6] in previous case reports. In cases of metastases in the axial skeleton, surgical assessment is best option in case of spinal cord compression. Radiotherapy along with steroids is an option for palliation of symptoms. In patients with appendicular skeleton

risk of fracture is high. Chemotherapy alone in metastatic disease is not curative. Response rates are low (\leq 50%). Hypercalcemia has also been observed in osteolytic bone metastases [7,8]. Therefore patients with pain in carcinoma penis should be investigated to rule out bone metastases.



Figure 1a & 1b: Microscopic photograph of histopathology of carcinoma penis (Well differentiated squamous cell carcinoma) showing keratin pearls.



Figure 2: Fungating Lesion in Right Inguinal Region.

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Figure 3: Contrast Enhanced computed tomography showing mass lesion 5.4cm in right side pelvic region.

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Conclusion

In patients with penile cancer with huge nodal burden at presentation is alarming sign during follow up metastatic work up should be done thoroughly to rule out metastatic disease.

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