



Case Report
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Lymphoma of the vulva in Nigeria: Case Report



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Abstract

Lymphoma of the vulva is acknowledged to occur rarely. Thus, only single case reports came from 9 countries worldwide. Therefore, a typical case is reported here from Nigeria, the patient hailing from the Ibo ethnic group. It is concluded that the series collected from USA provided a good platform for appreciating the epidemiology of this rare tumor including the ranges in age.

Keywords: Vulva; Lymphoma; Single cases; Collected cases, Epidemiology, Nigeria

Introduction

Vulva lymphoma is acclaimed to be rare. This is attested to by the single case reports emanating from countries as far apart as Italy [1,2], Japan [3], Korea [4], Spain [5], Switzerland [6], and Turkey [7]. Therefore, this single such report comes from Nigeria, especially as it is from the Ibo ethnic group [8].

Case Report

OB, a 47-year-old woman, attended our Institution where she first saw Dr Arthur C. Ikeme in Ward 10 with a large fungating single mass involving the right part of the mons and right labium majus. Biopsied five irregular pale pieces were submitted to the corresponding author. The largest showed hairy skin 4cm across. Microscopy revealed ulcerated skin undermined by sheets of plump, round, hyperchromatic, tumor cells. They showed no differentiation. Therefore, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma was diagnosed.

Discussion

Oddly enough, the USA contribution concerned 6 cases [9]. These patients were aged from 43 to 71 years (mean 60 years). In this range is the local case as well as those from Italy [2], Japan [3], Korea [4] and Spain [5]. Outside the range are the patients from Switzerland [6] and Turkey [7]. What of the exactitude of the sites of origins? The Italian had "a non-tender mass in the upper part of the left labium major" [2]. The Japanese was described as suffering from "vulvar swelling" [3]. The Korean was having "a mass in the right upper labium" [4]. The Spaniard exhibited "vulva lymphoma predominantly involving the clitoris" [5]. Finally, the Swiss "patient underwent biopsy of the vulvar nodule" [6].

As regards treatment, the Japanese patient failed to respond [3]; while, in a Spanish woman, the "response to chemotherapy

was good and the patient remains asymptomatic after three years of follow-up." Concerning the group of 6 USA patients, who were clinically followed up, deaths occurred among 4 of them [9]. Incidentally, our local patient did not have any follow up. This was because she emerged strictly from a histopathology data pool as was advocated for easily facilitating epidemiological analysis by a Birmingham (UK) group [10]. Thus, it is important that what eventually emerged included the age patterns.

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