

A case of signet ring cell carcinoma with retroperitoneal fibrosis

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Introduction: Retroperitoneal fibrosis (RF) is a rare disease, mostly idiopathic, but associated with drugs, infections and malignancies. This patient was diagnosed as a signet ring cell carcinoma pathologically and reports as a very rare case with RF.

Case: A 76-year old man visited the Sahmyook Medical Center for pain in the left flank and scrotal edema in February 2020. There was 6kg of weight loss and dyspnea for 2 months until April, and abdominal and pelvic computed tomography was taken on April 24, shown that bilateral pleural effusions, diffuse soft tissue density mass around the aorta and renal vein suggestive of retroperitoneal fibrosis, gallbladder wall thickening and enhancement suggestive of gallbladder cancer were observed. On April 29, Lt supraclavicular node biopsy was performed and diagnosed as signet ring cell carcinoma. Palliative chemotherapy was determined from May 11. Cisplatin was planned to be administered on day 1, and 5-FU once every 3 weeks from day 1 to 4. However, the patient died on May 13 due to cardiac arrest.

Remarks: The patient was diagnosed with signet ring cell carcinoma in Lt supraclavicular node biopsy. The origin may be gallbladder, as seen in the imaging findings, but signet ring cell carcinoma is rare in gallbladder cancer, and as seen in the image, the tumor at Lt supraclavicular nodes, gallbladder neck, retroperitoneum, and bones (sternum, both ribs, and axial skeletons), deduce the possibility that the stomach originated. On May 11, a biopsy was attempted through a gastroscopy, but it was not performed due to the decreased SpO2. Currently, malignant tumors accompanying RF are mainly known as colorectal adenocarcinoma, carcinoid, lymphomas, prostate, and stomach neoplasm. It is known that RF accompanying gastric cancer is due to an inflammatory reaction and not metastasis. Signet ring cell carcinoma mainly forms linitis plastica, spreads intramurally, and mucosa is known to not invade. Gastric cancer causing RF is very rare, but signet ring cell carcinoma, which causes linitis plastica, is known as an exception. Therefore, this case is reported as a very rare case due to RF caused by signet ring cell carcinoma.

