

An 18-year-old man with pancreas-originated Burkitt lymphoma

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Introduction: Burkitt lymphoma is a highly aggressive type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma which is derived from germinal or post-germinal center B cells. The primary Burkitt lymphoma originating from pancreas is extremely rare, and it is hard to distinguish from other benign or malignant disease in pancreas

Case report: An 18-year-old male patient with no medical history visited emergency room in our hospital because of jaundice, general weakness, weight loss of 4 kg, and both leg pains over the last 3 weeks. His physical examination was unremarkable. Initial laboratory results showed obstructive jaundice with a total bilirubin of 7.99mg/dL, direct bilirubin of 5.88 mg/dL, AST of 231 IU/L, ALT of 915 IU/L, alkaline phosphatase of 915 U/L, gamma-glutamyl transferase of 976 IU/L, and 10457 IU/L of LDH. Abdominopelvic CT scan showed an about 6cm-sized homogeneous enhancing mass replacing pancreas head and body with distal CBD obstruction. Additionally, homogeneous enhancing mass-like lesions involved gallbladder, retroperitoneal space, proximal ascending colon and terminal ileum. ERCP with biliary drainage was performed to resolve obstructive jaundice. On EGD, several 3-4cm-sized mushroom-like shaped hyperemic elevated mucosal lesions were scattered in antrum and body of stomach. On colonoscopy, huge fungating mass involving terminal ileum, IC valve and proximal ascending colon was noted. On pathologic examination, malignant Burkitt lymphoma was confirmed with immunohistochemical staining and positive for c-Myc (8q24) translocation by FISH study. Finally, Ann Arbor stage IV of Burkitt lymphoma originated from pancreas was diagnosed with involvement of bone marrow, stomach, gallbladder, terminal ileum, colon, bilateral pleura, left testis, and multiple lymph nodes ranging from bilateral cervical to bilateral iliac chain. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy (R-hyper CVAD regimen).

Discussion: Primary pancreas Burkitt lymphoma is an exceptionally rare subset of cancers affecting pancreas, whose effective treatment was differ markedly from that of pancreatic adenocarcinoma.

