

Esophageal Herpes Simplex Virus(HSV) and Cytomegalovirus(CMV) Co-infection in Esophageal Cancer

영남대학교 의과대학 내과학 교실

김준섭, 김민철, 안준홍, 구미진

Introduction: The upper gastrointestinal tract, especially the esophagus, is a frequent site of infection in immunocompromised patients. Esophagitis due to viral infection usually caused by a single virus, but it caused by multiple viral infection has been rarely reported. We report a case of infectious esophagitis co-infected with HSV and CMV in a patients with therapy-naive esophageal cancer.

Case report: The patient was admitted to intensive care unit with exacerbation of dyspnea. He had hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus and asthma. He was non-alcoholics, but smoked 0.5 packs a day for 20 years. Laboratory test results are Anti-HIV antibody was negative. Chest computed tomography revealed dense consolidation with multiple cavities in right middle lung field and segmental esophageal wall thickening at mid esophagus. (Figure 1). He was treated with mechanical ventilation support due to worsening hypercapnia and administration with antibiotics. Afterward, Pneumonia and his clinical course gradually improved and endotracheal tube was removed on the 10th day of treatment. Endogastroduodenoscopy(EGD) was performed because he complained of odynophagia after diet, and revealed diffuse deep ulceration occupied total circumferential of the mid esophagus. (Figure 2) Multiple biopsy was performed and pathological result revealed suggesting HSV and CMV co-infection and moderated differentiated squamous cell carcinoma (Figure 3). Acyclovir and ganciclovir were administered simultaneously for three weeks. After that, EGD performed again revealed partial improvement of the esophageal ulcer. Follow up biopsy result revealed no further evidence of HSV and CMV infection.

Conclusion: Most of the previously reported cases of esophagitis caused by HSV and CMV co-infection so far were the patients with HIV infection, organ transplantation or long-term steroid use. The physician should considered multiple viral co-infections, even if infectious esophagitis is seen in EGD in therapy-naive esophageal cancer.

