Case Report

Bladder Endemic Burkitt’s Lymphoma in a VIH Positive Patient: A Case Report

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Abstract

Introduction. The presentation of a lymphoma in the kidney and bladder is rare. In this study, we present a case of Burkitt’s lymphoma that occurred in a bladder of a 24-year-old boy VIH positive, who benefited from multidisciplinary care.

Case presentation. After clinical examination, different tests were done: laboratory tests, ultrasonography, cytological and histological examinations. Loss of weight, dysuria, nocturia, painful hematuria, and a palpable pelvic mass were appreciated. Full blood count showed anemia with hemoglobin level of 7.40 g/dl. HIV serology was positive with 193/ mm³ CD4 lymphocytes. Pelvic ultrasound with cystoscopy and cystography revealed a mass in the bladder. The cytological examination showed Burkitt’s lymphoma, which was confirmed histologically from a biopsy specimen of the tumor.

Conclusion. Lymphoma in the bladder is rare; the histopathology features of Burkitt’s lymphoma are not different from those observed in other organs and in other African countries.

Keywords bladder; Burkitt’s lymphoma, VIH positive; histopathology; Douala; Cameroon

1. Introduction

First described by Denis Burkitt in Kampala (Ouganda, West Africa) in 1958, and in Cameroon (Central Africa) in 1962 by Victor Anomah Ngu, Burkitt’s lymphoma is a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma which represents 35% to 50% of cancers in children and 20% in adults. The maxilla-facial (jaw) location is the most frequent location, followed by the abdomen, ovaries, and testis. The location of the cancer in the kidney and bladder is rare [1,2,3]. Other subjects related to this disease have been reported [4,5,6].

In this article, we present a rare case of Burkitt’s lymphoma located in the bladder, of a 24-year-old male patient.

2. Case presentation

Mr. Jaques, 24 years old, house boy, was referred to a private medical center in Douala town (Cameroon) on March 2014. On admission, he presented with an altered state marked by fever at 38.5 °C, asthenia, anorexia, and progressive loss of weight characterized by the body mass index = PT² < 18.5. In addition, there were dysuria, nocturia, painful hematuria, and a palpable pelvic mass. Full blood count showed anemia with hemoglobin level of 7.40 g/dl which has been persisting for three months. Erythrocyte sedimentation was by 90 mm at the first hour. HIV serology was positive with 193/ mm³ CD4 lymphocytes. The rest of the biological investigations were normal; serum biochemical parameters and LDH were not done. The cerebrospinal fluid and osteomedullar biopsy after scanography were normal. The treatment is combined with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs, but there was no improvement of his condition. He benefited from other complementary investigations including pelvic ultrasound with cystoscopy and cystography which revealed a mass in the bladder. The cytological examination showed Burkitt’s lymphoma, which was confirmed histologically from a biopsy specimen of the tumor. Conclusion. Lymphoma in the bladder is rare; the histopathology features of Burkitt’s lymphoma are not different from those observed in other organs and in other African countries.
the clinical and biological parameters, notably the level of hemoglobin at 11 g/dl, the body mass index $PT^2 > 18.5$, and progressive increasing of the CD4 lymphocytes.

In fact, the patient was followed up by a protocol prescribed by the medical center. The patient disappeared from the medical center after three months of follow-up.

3. Discussion

Burkitt’s lymphoma is a common pathology in Cameroon. It is observed in children between 0 and 14 years old [1,2] and it is less frequent in young adults [1,2,3]. Location in the urinary tract is rare. When the disease is observed, it is mostly located in bladder and kidney [5,6,7]. A recent study published by Engbang et al. in Cameroon 2017 confirmed that the bladder is a rare target for Burkitt lymphoma [8,9,10]. The transitional carcinoma is the most frequent type of bladder cancer. In Africa in general and especially in Cameroon, Epstein Barr virus has been implicated in the pathogenesis of this cancer. Burkitt’s lymphoma in not rare in aids patients [2,4,8]. The treatment is based on chemotherapy with a good outcome. Burkitt lymphoma is classified among the cancers virus-induced [11], including cervical cancer, nasopharynx cancer, hepatocarcinoma, lymphomas and Kaposi disease. Early diagnosis combined to early adequate treatment are important for a good result [12,13].

4. Conclusion

The histopathology feature of Burkitt’s lymphoma as observed in the bladder of a young adult is very rare but is not different from that observed in other locations and in other African countries.

Authors’ contributions All the authors have participated to this article. Prof. A. Fewou was the principal investigator. Prof. J.-L. Essame Oyono was the general supervisor.

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

References