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Extranodal soft tissue lymphomas of extremities can mimic soft tissue sarcomas: a case report

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Introduction: Malign lymphomas can originate from any part of the body. Even though lymph nodes are accepted as main source, it can affect the other tissues as well. The involvement other than lymph nodes is described as extranodal disease. Soft tissue lymphomas of the extremities are seen rarely.

Case Report: A 57-year-old male referred to emergency outpatient clinic with malaise and a hemorrhagic mass in left thigh which disrupt the skin integrity. Patient's anamnesis revealed that the mass has been existed in anterior side of the left thigh for last six years, during this period it was in dimension of a nut, but 3 months ago, it has started growing aggressively. The hematocrit and hemoglobin values were low at the time of presentation (Hct:17,2 Hgb:5,5). At initial step, three units erythrocyte replacement was made and the hemodynamic of the patient was stabilized. The patient was evaluated by interventional radiologists and 50% of vessels feeding the tumour has been embolized. MR evaluation was made for the mass in left thigh. A mass, localized anteriorly under the skin, displacing the anterior muscle groups, 84x106 mm sized, in a heterogenous structure and showing enhancement in postcontrast images, was detected. PET test was made with malign tumour suspicion. PET revealed a mass in left thigh, primarily compatible with slow progressing soft tissue malignity. The preparations for the surgery was started. The pathologic evaluation of fine needle aspiration biopsy material revealed diffuse large B - Cell Non Hodgkin Lymphoma.

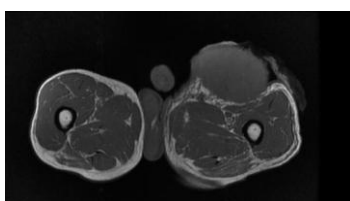


Figure 1. T2 weighted MRI

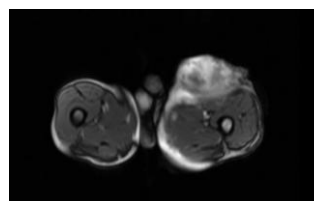


Figure 2. T1 weighted MRI



Figure 3. Mass view

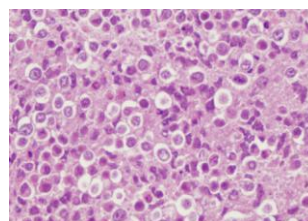


Figure 4. Hematoxylin

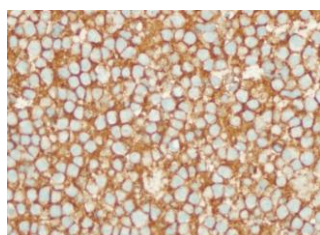


Figure 5. Cd-20 positive

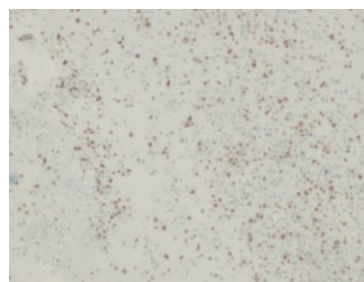


Figure 6. ki 67

Results: Consequently the patient was referred to the hematologic oncology department and underwent chemotherapy.

Conclusion: Especially in patients without systemic symptoms of lymphoma like fever, night sweat and weight loss, the lymphoma diagnosis can be overlooked and during the evaluation period, these patients are consulted with radiologists, pathologists and nuclear medicine specialists, only in terms of soft tissue sarcomas. This situation can lead to a late diagnosis and delay in the treatment period. Soft tissue sarcomas and lymphomas have different type of treatment courses. In middle or old-aged patients, if there is a fast-growing extremity mass, lymphoma should be kept in mind in differential diagnosis.