

GREAT MIMICRY. HAND RHABDOMYOSARCOMA IN CHILD SUPERIMPOSED WITH HAND ABSCESS

Abdul Rahman Nik Mazian¹, Mohammad Anwar Hau Abdullah²

¹Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia, ²Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II

Introduction: Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) is malignancy of striated muscles, accounting 3.5% of soft tissue tumor in children. Predominantly in head and neck, genitourinary and extremities. Only 7% of cases occur in upper extremity (Valone et al, 2014). On top of superimposed infection, it is difficult to reach early diagnosis. We reported a case of hand RMS treated initially as thenar abscess.

Discussion: A 6-years-old Down Syndrome boy presented with complaint of fever, pain and swelling at right hand thenar area for a week. Examination showed swelling at right thenar with signs of infection. Blood parameters showed high TWC of 14.8, Hb 11.7, platelet 471. He was diagnosed with right thenar abscess, evacuated and completed 2 weeks' course of cloxacillin. A month later, the swelling worsened with lymph node swelling at right medial epicondyle and right axilla. Soft tissue malignancy was purported. Biopsy taken from the right thenar muscle and right axilla lymph node. HPE reported as alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma. MRI showed isointense lesion on T1, hyperintense on T2, ill-defined peripheral enhancement post contrast, with involvement of first metacarpal bone. CT scan showed right axillary and supraclavicular lymph nodes metastasis. He underwent chemotherapy and radiotherapy. After four months, the swelling resolved, and repeated MRI showed regressing of tumor. Currently, at 11 months of follow up showed no recurrence. RMS is common in children but rare to occur in hand. It can be missed if there is superimposed infection. Treatment of RMS includes chemotherapy and local therapy (surgery +/- radiotherapy) (Trang et al, 201) (McDowell et al 2010). Local therapy for recurrence with aim of preserving hand function is advocated.

Conclusion: Hand RMS is rare. Superimposed infection makes diagnosis difficult. Chemotherapy and local therapy are the mainstay of treatment.