

The Silent Threat : Tumour Mimicking Infection

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INTRODUCTION:

Lump over the limb is a common condition, and several diagnoses exist. We describe a case of Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL) mimicking an abscess over the limb.

REPORT:

A 16-year old girl presented with swelling over the right midfoot and forearm, about 2x3cm and increasing over 2 weeks. Ultrasound reported multiple right foot early abscess, and right forearm lipomatous lesion. After completing 1 week of antibiotics, the lumps worsened, leading to wound debridement. The swelling over the right foot progressively worsen into fungating mass, about 7x8 cm.

MRI suggested a neurofibroma and peripheral nerve sheath tumor, with differential diagnosis right foot melanoma with bilateral leg metastasis. A CT TAP reported short segment thrombosis over left renal vein and hepatic vein, extending to the inferior vena cava, with solitary nodules suspicious of metastasis in the right lung middle lobe. Wedge biopsy was done and reported Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL).

Patient was referred to oncologist and was planned for chemotherapy, however patient succumbed to death due to disease progression.

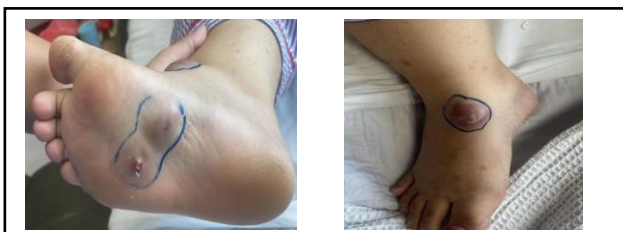


Figure 1 :



Figure 2:

CONCLUSION:

Cutaneous lymphoma is Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. T-cell subtypes make 70% of cutaneous lymphoma and B-cell 30%. Primary cutaneous ALCL is a CD30+ T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder and anaplastic large cell lymphoma accounts for 8% of cutaneous lymphomas. Hence, when skin infections do not respond to antibiotics, consider alternative diagnoses, i.e cutaneous presentation of malignancy

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