

Distal Femur Fibroblastic Osteosarcoma in Pregnancy: A Rare Diagnosis and Management Conundrum

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INTRODUCTION:

The occurrence of malignancy in pregnancy is relatively rare with an incidence of just 0.07% to 0.1% of all malignant tumors. The most reported are breast and cervical malignancies. (1) When they present, the clinician is confronted with the issues of developing an appropriate diagnostic, staging, and therapeutic strategy. (2)

REPORT:

A 35-year-old lady, G3P1+1 at 26 weeks and 4 days period of gestation presented with persistent left knee pain and a rapidly progressive left knee swelling in just 2 months. It was associated with unintentional weight loss and ambulatory difficulty. Further history revealed she has a strong family history of malignancy where her great grandfather passed away due to an osseous malignancy. 5 months prior to the onset of the swelling, she was actually being treated for left medial meniscus injury as she twisted her leg during prayers.

Examination revealed a circumferential swelling measuring 15x20 cm with overlying dilated veins over left distal thigh (Figure 1). It is firm and non-mobile, with tenderness on palpation. Urgent MRI of the left knee showed an aggressive left distal femur mass with cortical erosion and multiple solid-cystic extra-osseous components anteriorly and posteriorly with intra-articular extension (Figure 2). A CT Thorax, hepatobiliary and pelvic ultrasound scans were done to rule out distant metastasis. Histopathology findings shows high-grade spindle cell sarcoma favouring conventional osteosarcoma with fibroblastic variant.

A multidisciplinary meeting between the orthopaedic oncologist, clinical oncologist, fetomaternal specialist, neonatologist, and pathologist was done with the patient to ascertain the best direction of care. She opted for a cycle

of neoadjuvant chemotherapy followed by an elective lower segment Caesarean section at 31-weeks gestation after thorough discussion.

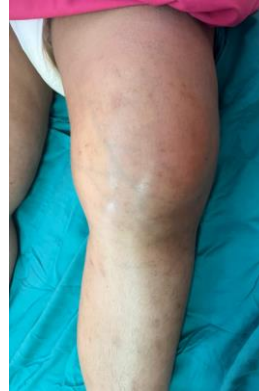


Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 1: Circumferential left distal thigh swelling
Figure 2 : T2 Sagittal view MRI of left knee

CONCLUSION:

The use of therapeutic modalities such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy for maternal health and survival must be weighed against the potential risk to the fetus. For malignancies such as osteosarcoma which are chemosensitive, a delay in the commencement of treatment will adversely affect prognosis. A thorough discussion should take place between all relevant teams and the patient so that the best agreeable care may be administered to both mother and the fetus.

REFERENCES:

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