

An Experience Treating Spine Metastasis in Young Adults Due to Neuroendocrine Tumors

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INTRODUCTION:

Neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) constitute a heterogeneous group of cancers arising from neuroendocrine cell. Neuroendocrine tumors with spine metastasis require an early evaluation and multidisciplinary approach in making decisions to determine therapy. Therapy in spinal metastases aims to reduce pain and improve the quality of life of the patient. Surgery is indicated when there is neurological deficit, spinal cord compression, and instability of the spine.

REPORT:

We report a case of a 23-year-old morbidly obese gentleman presented with acute bilateral lower limb weakness. Power and sensation over the bilateral lower limbs were zero. He denies any constitutional symptoms and environmental factors. An urgent MRI of the whole spine revealed multiple osteoblastic type bone metastasis. CTTAP showed a mildly enhancing anterior mediastinal mass, numerous scattered bilateral lung nodules, small enhancing pancreatic tail lesion and right parasellar lesion with bony erosion.

A posterior instrumentation was done over the T5 to L3. Post operatively his neurology improved significantly over the bilateral lower limbs with power of at least 3 and sensation of 1. Histopathological examination (HPE) is suggestive of carcinoma with neuroendocrine differentiation, wherein a metastatic nature is favored. The possible primary sites for neuroendocrine neoplasm include lungs, thyroid, gastrointestinal tract, thymus, pituitary and pancreas among others.

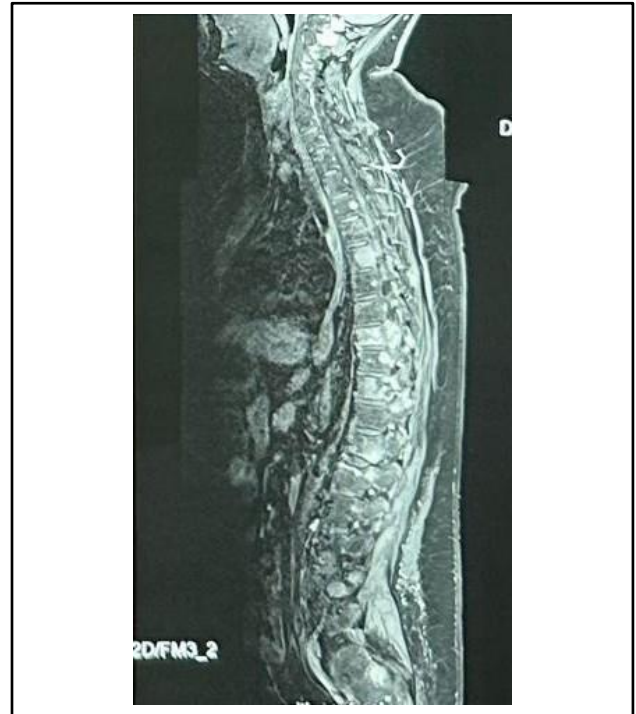


Figure 1: MRI Whole spine T2 image (Sagittal View)

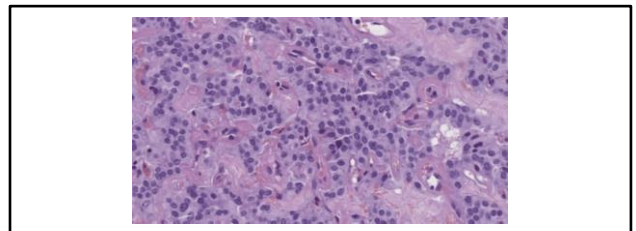


Figure 2: Histopathological examination

CONCLUSION:

Metastatic spinal cord compression is a serious complication of malignancy. We suggest that appropriate surgical management of the metastatic lesion is necessary for the preservation of the patient's quality of life during survival.

REFERENCES:

1. Gao H, Wan Y, Ma H, Huang T, Song W. Neuroendocrine tumor of thoracic spine: case report and literature review.