

Epithelioid Sarcoma In The Lumbar Spine: A Case Report

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INTRODUCTION:

Epithelioid sarcoma is a rare malignant soft tissue neoplasm commonly involving extremities of young adults and rarely occurring in the trunk area. We are reporting a case of epithelioid sarcoma in the lumbar spine and its clinical course.

CASE REPORT:

Mr. J is a 52 years old male with a background of hypertension and dyslipidemia. He presented with lower back pain and constitutional symptoms since 2014 with no neurological deficit. Based on his first lumbosacral MRI and histopathology study in 2015 he was treat as tuberculosis of the spine and was prescribed anti-TB medications for 1 year. However, his lower back pain symptoms did not resolve and he developed lower limb neurology despite being compliant to anti-TB treatment. A repeat MRI of the whole spine done on March 2016 was reported as multiple spine metastases. A repeat transpedicular biopsy resulted in findings consistent with epithelioid sarcoma.

He underwent partial tumor debulking at the L4, L5, S1 levels with decompression of the spinal canal and instrumentation from L1-S2. Radiotherapy was initiated post op.

Upon latest review in clinic, his pain is now well controlled and he ambulates with a walking frame. He is planned for 28 cycles of radiotherapy.

DISCUSSIONS:

Epithelioid sarcoma is a rare soft tissue sarcoma with aggressive mesenchymal features of unknown histogenesis, and displays multidirectional differentiation, which comprises predominantly epithelial cells. It accounts for less than 1% of all soft tissue sarcomas. It commonly presents itself in the limbs of young adults as a small, soft mass or a series of bumps. Rare cases have been reported in the pelvis,

ovula, penis, and spine. Epithelioid sarcoma located anywhere in the spine was reported in only 9 cases until 2015.

The histological characteristics of epithelioid sarcoma are similar to those of inflammatory processes and other benign soft tissue tumors. Differential diagnosis of epithelioid sarcoma from other forms of cancer is required through various immunohistochemical stains.

The treatment of choice is wide resection and chemoradiotherapy. Despite multimodal treatment, this type of tumor has a poor clinical outcome and a high rate of local recurrence.

CONCLUSION:

Epithelioid sarcoma of the spine is extremely rare, obtaining an accurate diagnosis is difficult and needs various investigations. Surgical treatment with radical wide resection and adjuvant chemoradiotherapy is beneficial. However, further studies and the accumulation of cases are needed to investigate unknown factors related to spinal epithelioid sarcoma.

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