

Case Report: Spine Metastasis From Second Primary Carcinoma

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Introduction:

An Indian regional cancer institute have reported 0.18% of 23,260 registered cancer patients between 2009 to 2012 have multiple primary malignancies¹. To our knowledge, there was a case of triple primary malignancies in a patient that has been reported in Malaysia in 2008².

Case report:

This is a case of 65-year-old male, previously an ambulatory man and a known case of high grade non muscle invasive urothelial carcinoma (NMIBC) which had undergone radical cystoprostatectomy and ileal conduit in 2012. He came in with progressive bilateral lower limb weakness and numbness for 3 months without constitutional symptoms. Neurological assessment concluded ASIA B paraplegia level T5. Imaging findings showed a lesion at left T6 vertebra compressing and displacing the spinal cord towards the other side. He underwent operation of tumor resection, decompression T6 and posterior instrumentation from T4 to T8. However, the initial diagnosis was revised as the histopathology (HPE) of the resected tumor turned out to be metastatic thyroid carcinoma. Further examination revealed presence of solitary thyroid nodules with evidence of primary hyperthyroidism. Thyroid nodule biopsy sample nevertheless was unsatisfactory. Postoperatively, his neurological status improved and currently he is still under rehabilitation program. He is also planned for thyroidectomy soon.

Discussion:

It was thought that the bladder carcinoma has metastasized to the spine with positive previous medical history. HPE of the spine sample has overturned the management of this case. This case is metachronous as the new tumor occurs more than 6 months of intervals from the previous one. It is even exceptionally uncommon to have synchronous malignancies

in a patient. Even though diagnosis of multiple primary malignancies in a patient appears to be increasing recently, it is still extremely rare to be seen in Malaysia.



Figure 1.0: Tumor resected measuring 4cm x 3cm x 2cm, MRI image showed the spinal cord compression



Figure 2.0: Post-operative x-rays

Conclusion:

Nowadays, multiple primary malignancies in a patient are becoming less uncommon with better management and detection technology. Early diagnosis is crucial for prompt intervention which eventually impacts the outcome.

References:

1. Puneet KB et al, Iran J Cancer Prev. 2014 Spring; 7(2): 66–72
2. Iqbal Fr et al, Med J Malaysia. 2008 Dec;63(5):417-8