

That Unforgatable Smiling Face

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Abstract

Being a doctor, every day I come in contact with so many patients but few of them we cannot forget. Here I am sharing one of my experiences, which I will keep in mind forever.

INTRODUCTION

On my one OPD day, my ward-boy rushed in and asked me to look a serious patient outside on stretcher. I went and saw a middle aged lean & thin lady in subconscious state with complete pale face .While examining that lady I enquired with the attendant (Her hubby) about the history of her illness, he told that she is serious like that for last 15 days. Being a lady physician I scolded that man for his negligence who apparently seems to be an educated man. He was very upset but he didn't utter a single word. I advised for admission & investigation and asked that man to show me all the reports as soon as it comes.

The day finished, next day was Sunday so on Monday morning that man was standing with the reports; The Ultrasound report shows a mass in the pancreatic head with further advice of CT. As the mass was a large one, I now enquired for previous reports if any. That man showed me all report papers including Ultrasound & CT about 3 years old, that CT report mentioned about the same mass 3 years back as a malignant mass. I then asked him whether his wife is aware of her diagnosis, yes she was. I felt sorry for that lady and for my attitude that day towards that man standing in-front of me papers in hand .I told him that I will be there after awhile during my ward round to see her.

On my round I found that lady sitting with a smiling face and comfortable state. I talked to her about her condition and family; there was not a single sign of any pain or complaint on her face.

Next day she was better and welcomed me with smiling face. I asked for ERCP done for relief from icterus. The Gastroenterologist who did ERCP told me later that it was a very difficult case as the anatomy of epigastric region was completely distorted, he tried many time to enter into the ampulae but not succeeded, he tried for last chance & it was there “ She is very lucky”. With ERCP done her icterus was reduced.

Next day when I entered the ward and reached her, she herself told me with that same smiling face “Mam, today you are not asking about my condition. I am completely alright.” I too gave her a smile, the only thing which I can give her beside my treatment as I know the prognosis. She was then sent for CT to know about the progression of disease, it is now metastasised to bones & lungs, the critical phase. I referred her to Cancer Hospital for further management, where she has visited earlier also.

Even today I remember that smiling face who knew all about her disease with prognosis but her face defying the Deadly disease with a large smile on her face always. It was her attitude towards the Life and even her Luck that she survived for more than 3 years with that disease where the survival rate is not more than 6 months and with badly

distorted anatomy the ERCP succeeded on last shot and clinically attained comfort from icterus.

What a Courageous lady and a never Forgettable SMILE.

DISCUSSION

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth major cancer killer in developed countries and it is on the rise in developing country like India with 98% mortality within a year of diagnosis. Ninety percent of all cases begin in the enzyme producing (exocrine) cells of the pancreas, only 5-10% in the endocrine, hormone secreting tissue. Adenocarcinoma is the most common form and approximately 90% of the cases are pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). Excess body weight, Chronic inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis), Diabete, Personal or family history of pancreatic cancer, Smoking are the major risk factors. The treatment of pancreatic carcinoma is depending on stage of the disease. Chemotherapy and radiotherapy are main modalities of treatment for unresectable and metastasised tumors.

The most beautiful part of this case story was never Forgettable SMILE inspite of knowing her illness and its prognosis.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

There is no conflict of interests or competing commercial interests to declare.

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