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A Rare Case of Unusual Malignant Melanoma

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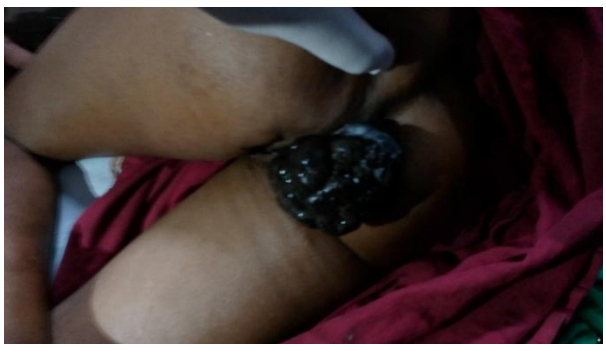
ABSTRACT
This report presents a case of "Advanced anal verge melanoma with secondaries in left inguinal lymph node , liver and vesico-uterine angle". A 55year old female presented with complain of bleeding per rectum for 2 years and mass coming out through anus for 8 days. Local examination revealed a pedunculated lobular growth from the perianal verge with blackish discolouration along with left inguinal lymphadenopathy. On ultrasonography and CT Scan metastatic deposits in liver and vesicouterine angle was detected. This case report demonstrates the aggressive nature of the disease and hence gives a message to have a high index of suspicion for any case of rectal bleeding with lightly pigmented or non pigmented polypoid lesion on proctoscopic examination for early diagnosis and treatment.

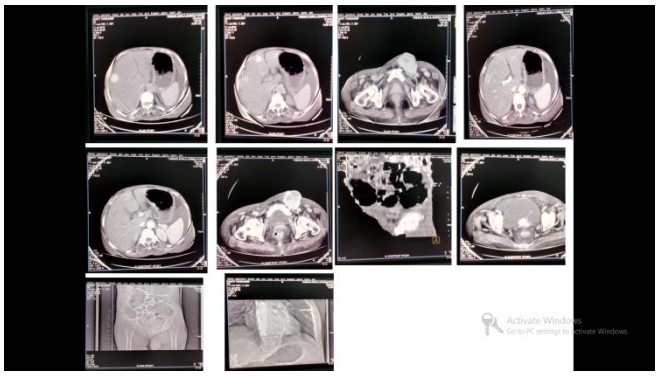
BACKGROUND

Ano-rectal melanoma is a rare tumor with an extremely poor prognosis. It represents less than 1% of all melanomas and accounts for 4% of anal malignancies.1 the clinical diagnosis of anal melanoma is, at best, challenging. Patients often present with nonspecific complaints such as rectal bleeding (most common) or anal pain. Furthermore, a significant minority (34%) of lesions may lack pigment, thus requiring biopsy for a definitive diagnosis. Although many patients present with what initially appears to be curable localized disease, undetected regional or distant metastases are common. Metastases occur via lymphatic and hematogenous routes and it has been reported that 38% of patients have already metastatic disease at the time of diagnosis. Lymphatic spread to mesenteric nodes is more common than to inguinal nodes while lungs, liver and bones are the most frequent sites of distant metastases. Even with aggressive surgical resection, more than 80% of patients will die of distant metastatic disease within 5 years. Prompt surgery seems to be the only treatment option since current chemotherapy and radiotherapy alone have been proved ineffective. The development of novel therapies to treat malignant melanoma will hopefully improve the clinical outcome.

CASE REPORT

A 55 year old female patient was admitted to our department with chief complain of bleeding per rectum and generalised weakness for 2 years, swelling in left inguinal region for last 6 months and a mass coming out of anus for last 8 days. General examination revealed severe pallor and wasting of muscles. Local examination revealed a pedunculated lobular growth from perianal verge of size12cm x10cm diameter with blackish discolouration and serous discharge without any tenderness. In left inguinal region a swelling of size 7cm x 5 cm was found which was non tender, hard, matted and fixed. On abdominal examination shifting dullness was found to be positive suggesting free peritoneal fluid collection. Haematological examination revealed Hb% 5.0 gm %. Ultrasonography revealed liver metastasis and also metastatic deposit in vesico-uterine angle with moderate peritoneal collection and sarcoma in left illio-inguinal region. In CT scan we got metastatic deposit in segment vi and vii of liver, vesicouterine angle left illio-inguinal node, obturator node which was hyperdense on plain CT and hypervascular in CECT with ascites. We got evidence of metastatic deposit in left lung also. Unfortunately the patient died before taking biopsy.





CONSENT

A written informed consent was obtained from the patient for the publication of this case report with the accompanying images.

CONCLUSION

Anorectal melanoma is a rare disease with a poor prognosis, even when apparently diagnosed at an early clinical stage due to its aggressive nature. Hence all the clinicians must always keep a high index of suspicion in mind as a differential diagnosis with patients presenting with complain of bleeding per rectum with any pigmented or lightly pigmented polypoid lesion on proctoscopical examination. The ultimate goal of surgical treatment should be to minimize patient morbidity and maximize quality of life. This case report is an example of how aggressive the disease could be. Thus early diagnosis could have saved the patient and might have given a good quality of life.

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