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β -hCG-Secreting Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma

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CG-Secreting Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma

A 23-year-old male presented with fever and a 1-year history of backache followed by bilateral cervical, axillary, and inguinal lymphadenopathy and left testicular swelling. Ultrasonography of the abdomen showed moderate hepatosplenomegaly with multiple paraaortic and iliac lymphadenopathies. Fine-needle aspiration of the cervical lymph node (LN) gave a differential diagnosis of seminoma versus high-grade lymphoma. In view of the testicular swelling with a high β -hCG level, a diagnosis of germ cell tumor was made and bleomycin, etoposide, and cisplatin were given. Subsequent LN biopsy was suggestive of anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL), and so a CHOP regimen was begun. After 3 cycles of CHOP, there was progressive increase in LN size. The patient was referred to our institution for further evaluation. Bone marrow (BM) aspiration revealed 80% scattered large cells with bizarre nuclei, abundant cytoplasm, and pinkish cytoplasmic secretions (Figure 1); diagnosis of a metastatic tumor was suspected. However, BM biopsy showed features of β -hCG-secreting ALCL (positive for ALK 1, LCA, and β -hCG; negative for PLAP, cytokeratin, and CD30). LN biopsy slides were reviewed and showed histological as well as immunohistochemical features of ALCL (ALK-positive and PLAP-, cytokeratin-, and CD30-negative). Final diagnosis of ALCL with aberrant expression of β -hCG (stage IV B) was made and he was started on the BFM-90 protocol. To the best of our knowledge, this is the second case of ALCL showing aberrant expression of β -HCG reported in the literature [1]. Informed consent was obtained.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors of this paper have no conflicts of interest, including specific financial interests, relationships, and/or affiliations relevant to the subject matter or materials included.

References

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Figure 1. Bone marrow aspiration showing scattered large pleomorphic atypical lymphoid cells with bizarre nuclei, moderate to abundant cytoplasm, and pinkish cytoplasmic secretions.

