Skeletal Muscle Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma in the Gluteal Region

*Gonzalez-Benavides N, MD †; Cardenas-de la Garza JA, MD †; Rodriguez-Vivian C, MD †; Ocampo-Candiani J, MD, DrSca †; *Welsh O MD, DrSca †

*Responsability for publication

† Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, Facultad de Medicina y Hospital Universitario Dr. Jose E. Gonzalez, Department of Dermatology, Monterrey, Mexico

Key words: Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, extranodal lymphoma, gluteal lymphoma, muscle lymphoma

Abbreviations: Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL); non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL); rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone (R-CHOP); extranodal lymphoma (ENL)

Manuscript word count: 499

Table and Figure count: Figures 1(a-b)

Conflict of interest disclosure: The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Financial support: none

Corresponding author

Dr. Oliverio Welsh
Servicio de Dermatologia Hospital Universitario Dr. Jose Eleuterio Gonzalez, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon
Av. Madero y Gonzalitos s/n
Colonia Mitras Centro, 64460 Monterrey NL, Mexico
Tel.: +52 (81) 83 48 03 83      Fax: +52 (81) 83 48 44 07
Email: owelsh@yahoo.com

Acknowledgements:

We thank Sergio Lozano-Rodriguez, M.D. for editing the manuscript and the “Department of Pathological Anatomy and Cytopathology” of Hospital Universitario Dr. Jose Eleuterio Gonzalez, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon for providing Immunohistochemistry images.
To the editor,

Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is the most common form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL).(1) Approximately 30% of NHL arise from an extranodal site, including skin, testis, lung, bone, gastrointestinal tract and central nervous system.(1, 2) Primary skeletal muscle lymphomas are rare, and account for 0.5% of NHL cases.(3)

A 60 year-old male presented with a 5-month history of a rapidly growing mass in his left buttock accompanied by intense pain and impaired mobilization. He denied weight loss, fever or night sweats. Physical examination revealed a firm, tender left buttock mass, measuring 19 x 13 cm (Fig 1a). No palpable lymph nodes were detected. Laboratory tests were unremarkable. Abdominal and pelvic contrast-enhanced CT scan showed a soft tissue tumor in the left gluteal region, affecting the psoas, gluteus maximus and minor muscles with left retroperitoneal and inguinal lymphadenopathy. Two deep punch biopsies were performed. Histopathological examination revealed a diffuse atypical lymphocyte infiltration involving the dermis, subcutaneous tissue and muscle. Immunohistochemical staining was positive for CD20, with focal positivity of 20% for MUM1, and negative CD10 and BCL6. Ki-67 proliferation index was 80%. The final diagnosis was a diffuse large B-cell lymphoma activated B-Cell subtype. Six cycles of chemotherapy with rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone (R-CHOP) was started. He obtained complete clinical remission (Fig 1b) with no recurrence.

Extranodal lymphomas (ENL) are defined as those with no/minimal nodal involvement associated with a dominant extranodal component.(4) However, the definition of primary lymphoma remains a controversial issue, especially in patients where both nodal and extranodal sites are involved. The Lugano classification designates extranodal disease to single extranodal lesions without nodal involvement or patients with state I or II nodal disease with a clinically dominant extranodal component.(5-7) Extranodal lymphomas may arise from any site devoid of lymphocytes and almost half represent DLBCL.(6)

Involvement of the skeletal muscles by NHL is unusual and has been reported to occur in 1.1% of patients. The most common route of muscle involvement is hematogenous, lymphatic or by contiguous spread or very rarely, as a primary extranodal disease.(4) The most commonly affected muscles are those of the extremities, pelvis and gluteal regions.(6) In a retrospective study from the Mayo Clinic of over 7,000 cases of lymphoma, primary muscle lymphoma accounted for only 0.1%, diagnosed over a 10-year period.(8)

The main symptoms include the presence of a mass with progressive enlargement, pain, and swelling.(9) Imaging studies show diffuse enlargement of the muscle involving multiple compartments, distinguishing it from soft tissue sarcomas that usually involve one compartment.(9) Magnetic resonance imaging may aid the diagnosis and enables evaluation of tumor extension and adjacent structure involvement. However, histological analysis and immunohistochemistry is necessary to confirm the diagnosis.(10)
Differential diagnosis includes soft tissue sarcoma, metastatic carcinoma, and neurogenic tumors such as malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors.(6) No specific guidelines for treatment of skeletal muscle ENL are available. R-CHOP chemotherapy is usually the preferred regimen.(7) Due to the scarce number of reports, precise prognosis of primary skeletal ENL is not available.

References

Figure legends

**Figure 1a.** Diffuse Large-B cell lymphoma in the gluteal region before treatment.

**Figure 1b.** After 6 cycles of R-CHOP chemotherapy.