

Spinal cord involvement of multiple myeloma detected by F-18 FDG PET/CT Scan

F-18 FDG PET/CT tarama ile saptanan multiple myeloma'nun spinal kord tutulumu

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F-18 2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography (F-18 FDG PET/CT) images of a patient with spinal cord involvement of light chain (Lambda type) multiple myeloma (MM) is reported. A 56-year-old man had a 15-months history of light chain MM and have got out of hand after a chemotherapy regimen with only two cycles (melphalan, prednisone) was admitted to hospital because of weakness and lower back pain. To assess the systemic involvement of disease F-18 FDG PET/CT scan was performed. PET/CT images revealed a diffuse F-18 FDG uptake on spinal cord in the spinal canal along the thoracic 9th, 10th and 11th vertebrae (Fig 1). In addition, there were multiple active myeloma lesions and bone marrow involvement. At this time, bone marrow aspiration biopsy showed 30-50% of atypical plasma cells with a plasmablastic morphology (CD138 and CD56 positive by immune staining). Serum lactate dehydrogenase level was in normal range, alkaline phosphatase level was high (468 U/L). There was no plasma cell in peripheral blood smear. A lumbar puncture revealed a Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) content of 200 nucleated cells/ μ L. Flow cytometric

analysis of CSF confirmed the spinal cord involvement of MM, the percentage of both CD38 and CD138 positive cells was %19.46 by flow cytometry (Fig 2). Although spinal cord involvement, there was no symptoms related spinal cord involvement such as limb weakness, paraparesis. To the best of our knowledge, it is the first report of spinal cord involvement of MM imaged by F-18 FDG PET/CT.

Extramedullary spread of MM may occur either at diagnosis or during the course of the disease. The involvement of central nervous system (CNS) occurs in approximately 1 % of patients [1-3] and may present either with localized cerebral lesions or with meningeal myelomatosis, defined by the presence of monoclonal plasma cells in the CSF. The clinical presentation of CNS involvement include a wide set of neurological signs and symptoms, but headache, confusion, and limb weakness are the most common [3-5]. However, even in patients without circulating plasma cells, the haematogenous spread of their lymphoid progenitors has been postulated as a possible mechanism for CNS involvement [6].

Active myeloma is FDG-positive for focal and diffuse abnormalities. It has been reported that FDG

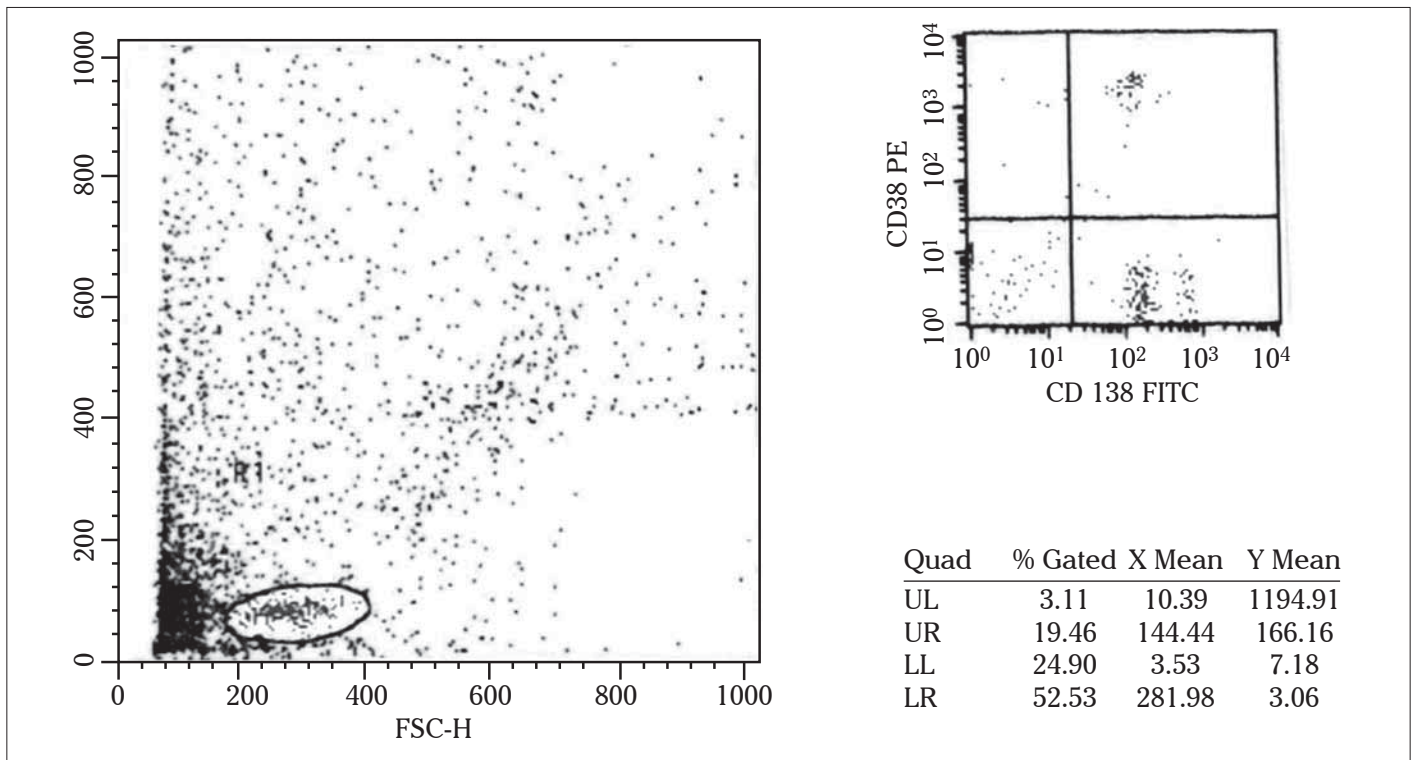


Figure 1. Three plane PET images (CT, PET and fused PET/CT in axial, sagittal and coronal projections) shows an intense F-18 FDG uptake with a maximum standard uptake value (SUVmax) of 5.7 in the thoracic 9th, 10th and 11th vertebrae and FDG avid masses in sternum and left 9th rib

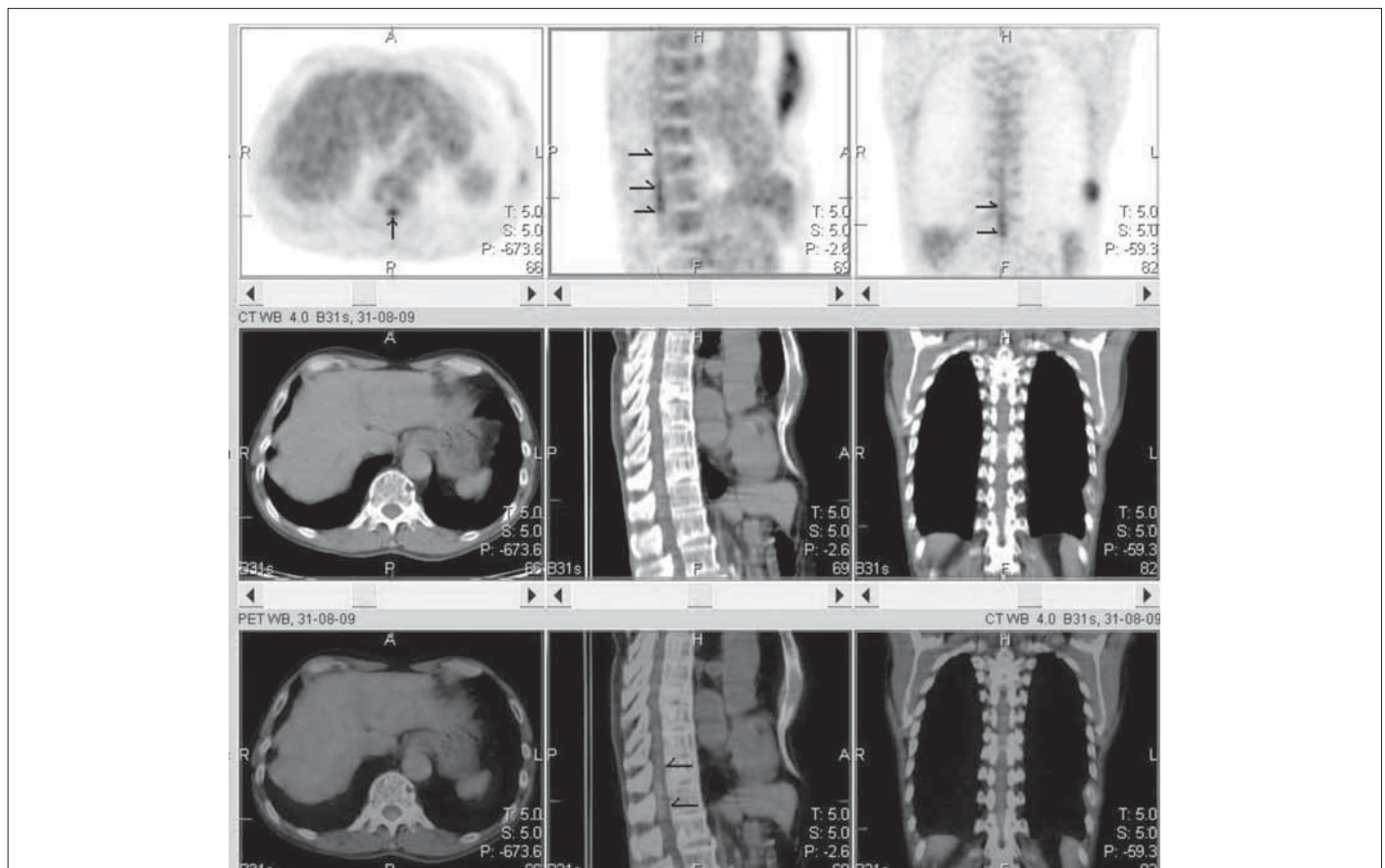


Figure 2. Flow cytometric analysis of CSF showing CD38 and CD 138 positive cells on upper right quadrant of the two-parameter histogram (%19.46 of the cells)

PET can significantly contribute to an accurate whole-body evaluation of multiple myeloma patients due to the ability to visualise highly energy-consuming cells such as tumour cells [7, 8]. In addition, the limited anatomical resolution of PET can be overcome by co-registration of functional PET images with morphological CT data with an integrated PET/CT system.

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient.

Conflict of Interest

No author of this paper has a conflict of interest, including specific financial interests, relationships, and/or affiliations relevant to the subject matter or materials included in this manuscript.

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Obituary

Prof. Hüseyin Sipahioğlu (1925-2010)

A Turkish hematologist, Professor Hüseyin Sipahioğlu, passed away September 11, 2010. He made several contributions to Turkish hematology including filariasis, thalassemia, G6PD deficiency. In 1947, he graduated from İstanbul University Faculty of Medicine and had his Internal Medicine residency at Vakıf Gureba. He worked at İstanbul University and Kayseri Gevher Nesibe University Medical School, respectively. He was the dean of Gevher Nesibe Medical School between 1978-1980 and then he was the rector of Kayseri Erciyes University between 1980-1982. He retired in 1982. Sipahioğlu had over 200 published articles (14 international) and 5 printed books including his memories.

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