CASE REPORT

Castleman's disease presenting with mechanical intestinal obstruction: A rare case

Abdulcabbar Kartal, M.D., Eray Atlı, M.D., Gürcan Vural, M.D., Murat Ferhat Ferhatoğlu, M.D., Ali İlke Filiz, M.D.

1Department of General Surgery, Okan University Faculty of Medicine, İstanbul-Turkey
2Department of Radiology, Okan University Faculty of Medicine, İstanbul-Turkey
3Department of Pathology, Okan University Faculty of Medicine, İstanbul-Turkey

ABSTRACT

Castleman's disease (CD) is a lymphoproliferative disorder and the occurrence of CD in the small bowel is rare. In this study, we present one case of CD causing mechanical intestinal obstruction due to involvement of terminal ileum. A 50-year-old man was admitted to the hospital with signs and symptoms of mechanical intestinal obstruction without history of previous surgery. After examination and obtaining abdominal computed tomography, diagnosis of mechanical intestinal obstruction was reached and emergency surgery was performed with a median incision. On abdominal exploration a tumor like mass that also held distal small intestine mesentery, and ileocecal valve causing complete intestinal obstruction was observed. Ileocecal resection and ileocolonic anastomosis were performed. CD is a rare entity and should be kept in mind during the differential diagnosis of mechanical intestinal obstruction provided that wall thickening in terminal ileum mimicking mass, and accompanying enlargement mesenteric lymph nodes observed during preoperative investigations or intraoperative exploration.

Keywords: Castleman’s disease; lymphoproliferative disorder; mechanical intestinal obstruction; mesenteric lymph nodes; terminal ileum.

INTRODUCTION

Castleman’s disease (CD) was first described as hyperplastic mediastinal lymph nodes containing interfollicular vascular proliferation in 1956 by Benjamin Castleman et al.[1] CD is a lymphoproliferative disorder and comprises two distinct diseases with different prognoses, including unicentric and multicentric. Unicentric CD (UCD) is defined as a localized disease which involves enlarged lymph node(s) in a single region of the body, whereas multicentric CD (MCD) is a systemic disease with generalized peripheral lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly, frequent fevers, and night sweats. CD may also present with a number of malignancies, including Kaposi sarcoma, Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. UCD is a rare disease and its true incidence is not known but it can be seen at any age, especially in younger adults. The median age at presentation is approximately 35 years.[2] The pathogenesis of UCD is not well understood, and viral, autoimmune, and neoplastic diseases have all been proposed as possible etiologies.[1] Although some familial cases of UCD have been reported, genomic sequencing has not been performed to identify inherited mutations.[3] Patients with UCD are usually asymptomatic and come to clinical attention when an enlarged lymph node is noted on physical examination or imaging studies. UCD usually affects just one lymph node or a single lymph node region. While the disease may involve all parts of the body, the mediastinum appears to be the most common part of involvement. In this study, we present one case of CD causing mechanical intestinal obstruction due to involvement of terminal ileum.
CASE REPORT

A 50-year-old man was admitted to the hospital with abdominal pain, nauseous, fecaloid vomiting, abdominal distention, and absence of gas and stool discharge since three days. His last bowel movement was three days ago and he reported no flatulence for three days, as well. He showed no signs of fever or chills. He had no a past history of previous hospitalizations. On physical examination, he showed signs of abdominal distension and bowel sounds were hypoactive. Tenderness was observed in all quadrant and there was rebound and guarding. Respiratory sounds were normal. The patient’s blood pressure was 140/90 mmHg, heart rate was 90 beats per minute, SpO₂ was 92%, and temperature was 37.6 °C. Rutin blood tests and abdominal computed tomography (CT) were obtained. Results of blood tests revealed total protein 7.3 g/dL, albumin 4.5 g/dL, AST 10 IU/L, ALT 9 IU/L, glucose 165 mg/dL, CRP 7.6 mg/dL, WBC 16,570 /µL, neutrophils 72%, HGB 13.74%, HCT 44.17%, PLT 328,000 /µL, INR 1.43, total bilirubin 0.7 mg/dL, BUN 21 mg/dL, creatinin 1.65 mg/dL, Na 141 mEq/L, K 4.3 mEq/L. Abdominal CT images and findings were shown in Figure 1.

Because of the severe tenderness, signs of peritoneal irritation, and CT findings compatible with mechanical intestinal obstruction, emergency surgery was performed the same day with a median incision. On abdominal exploration, a tumor-like mass that also held distal small intestine mesentery, and ileocecal valve causing complete intestinal obstruction was observed. Ileocecal resection and ileocolonic anastomosis was performed. Pathological findings revealed Castleman hyaline vascular type reactive lymphoid hyperplasia with ulcerated active chronic inflammation (Fig. 2).

The postoperative course was uneventful. On postoperative day 3, oral food intake was started. The patient was discharged on postoperative day 7 without any problems.
DISCUSSION

CD, which was reported by Castleman in 1954, is a highly heterogeneous clinicopathological entity belonging to the family of lymphoproliferative disorders. Although the etiology and pathophysiology of CD’s remain unknown, potential contributors to disease development are chronic inflammation, immune deficiencies, and some autoimmune diseases. Additionally, Epstein-Barr virus, Toxoplasma, and Mycobacterium tuberculosis are among the infectious agents that are responsible for disease. Clinical and laboratory abnormalities noted in the presence of CD are associated with inflammatory mediators, particularly with interleukin-6.

While mesenteric involvement in our case was unicentric, histopathological investigations indicated hyaline-vascular type CD. CD is difficult to diagnose preoperatively. The disease often presents with a solitary mass. Enlarged solitary lymph node showing homogeneous intense enhancement upon administration of contrast agent in computerized tomography should remind the diagnosis of the CD. The disease is frequently confused with malignancy as unicentric CD does not have specific radiological findings and appears as a solitary mass on radiological images.

Conclusion

CD should be kept in mind during the differential diagnosis of mechanical intestinal obstruction provided that thickening in terminal ileum mimicking mass, and accompanying enlargement mesenteric lymph nodes observed during preoperative investigations or intraoperative exploration. In cases of UCD, complete surgical resection should be performed.

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Mekanik bağırsak tıkanmasıyla başvuran Castleman hastalığı: Nadir bir olgu

Dr. Abdulcabbar Kartal,¹ Dr. Eray Atlı,² Dr. Gürcan Vural,² Dr. Murat Ferhat Ferhatoğlu,³ Dr. Ali İker Filiz⁴

¹Okan Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi, Genel Cerrahi Anabilim Dalı, İstanbul
²Okan Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi, Radyoloji Anabilim Dalı, İstanbul
³Okan Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi, Patoloji Anabilim Dalı, İstanbul

Castleman hastalığı, lenfoproliferatif bir hastalıktır ve ince bağırsakta görülmesi nadirdir. Bu çalışmada, terminal ileum tutulumuna bağlı mekanik intes-

Anahtar sözcükler: Castleman hastalığı; lenfoproliferatif bozukluk; mekanik intestinal obstrüksiyon; mezenterik lenf nodları; terminal ileum.