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A case series: Neurolymphomatosis of the optic nerve, median nerve, L4 spinal nerve root and cauda equina in patients with B-cell malignancies

Safaa Hassan Ali Al Azawi

Hamad Medical Corporation Doha, Qatar

Background: Neurolymphomatosis is rare. Neoplastic lymphocytes are found in nerve roots, invade nerves (cranial or peripheral), or other related structures in patients with haematological malignancy. It is a separate entity to central nervous system lymphoma. Neurolymphomatosis has most likely been described in relationship with B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Neurolymphomatosis has never been described in the context of Burkitt lymphoma and post-renal transplant setting.

Case Reports: Between 2012 and 2017, four cases of Neurolymphomatosis involving the median nerve, optic nerve, nerve root, and cauda equina in patients with Burkitt lymphoma were reported for the first time in the Arabian Gulf countries and neighbouring Arab states (one Asian, and the other three Arab nationals).

Conclusions: Neurolymphomatosis is uncommon and can be difficult to detect by biopsy but reliably confirmed by combined imaging techniques. Prior treatment with high dose

of dexamethasone may suppress 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) activity and reduce the sensitivity of Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography (PET/CT). The prognosis for Neurolymphomatosis is generally poor, however high-dose methotrexate, as well as high-dose chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation, may be successful treatments.

Speaker Biography

Safaa Al Azawi graduated from Basrah University Medical College in 1979 and Arab board medicine in 1991 and MRCP on 2005. Join Hematology Oncology Department National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) Hamad Medical Corporation in 2001 and appointed as faculty member at Weill Corner Medical College in Qatar in 2006 as Clinical Instructor had attended Hematology training in Heidelberg University Hospital including Royal Free Hospital in London. During the term his main interest is in B-Cell malignancy. He has many publications in peer review journals and Faculty member involved in clinical teaching of Arab Board candidates in General Medicine and Hematology Fellowship program.

e: safaahmc@hotmail.com