Inflammatory Pseudotumor of Spleen: A Case Report

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Abstract

Introduction: Inflammatory Pseudotumor (IPT) is a rare benign disease which presents as tumor like mass mimicking malignancy. The most common sites are lungs, liver, orbits and gastrointestinal tract. Splenic IPT is very rare.

Presentation of Case: A 41-year-old woman presented with the complaints of left upper quadrant pain radiating to the back for a year. Abdominal ultrasound and Computed Tomography (CT) revealed a hypodense lesion of approximately 5 cm located in the splenic parenchyma near the hilum. Hydatid serology was negative. The patient was treated with splenectomy due to diagnostic dilemma and final diagnosis of IPT was made on histopathological examination of the resected spleen.

Discussion: Splenic IPT usually affects middle aged women presenting as incidental finding on abdominal imaging. It is most often isolated but at times may be associated with IPT at other sites probably suggesting a systemic etiology. Radiological findings are non-specific leading to diagnostic dilemma. Splenectomy is useful for treating symptomatic cases and helps in making the accurate diagnosis in cases of diagnostic dilemma.

Conclusion: Splenic IPT is a rare, benign condition which should be included in the differential diagnosis while evaluating a splenic mass.

Keywords: Pseudotumor; Spleen; Splenectomy; Case report

Abbreviations

CT: Computed Tomography; EBV: Epstein Barr Virus; IPT: Inflammatory Pseudotumor; MRI: Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Introduction

Inflammatory Pseudotumors (IPT) are mass-like lesions of unknown etiology characterized by features of nonspecific inflammation and mesenchymal proliferation on histology [1]. They can occur anywhere in the body with the most common sites being lung, liver, gastrointestinal tract and orbits [2]. The clinical significance of this rare condition lies in the fact that they mimic malignant tumor on preoperative imaging. Because of the diagnostic dilemma, most of the patients undergo radical surgery with IPT being diagnosed on the histological examination.

Splenic IPT is an extremely rare condition. Most of the patients are asymptomatic with detection of splenic mass on radiological imaging [1]. With malignant splenic tumor being much more common than benign lesions, most of the patients undergo splenectomy [2]. We report a case of IPT of spleen diagnosed postoperatively on histopathological examination of resected spleen in a 41-year old lady suspected to have splenic tumor on abdominal imaging. This case has been reported in line with the SCARE criteria [3].

Case Presentation

A 41-year-old woman presented to the outpatient department of our University hospital with complaints of left upper quadrant pain radiating to the back for a year. There were no other associated symptoms. She smoked 10 cigarettes per day for the past 20 years. She had no significant past medical or surgical history. Clinical examination was unremarkable. Routine laboratory tests were normal. Abdominal ultrasound and computed tomography (CT) revealed a hypodense lesion
Splenic IPT is a rare, benign condition which should be included in the differential diagnosis while evaluating splenic mass. Definitive diagnosis of IPT can be made only on histopathological examination of biopsy or splenectomy specimen.

**References**


