Gall Bladder B-lymphoblastic Lymphoma Showing Carcinoma-like Appearance

Takayuki Ozawa¹, Satoru Kosugi¹, Takehiro Noda² and Hironori Take¹

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A 74-year-old woman was diagnosed as having B-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma (B-LBL) after surgical resection of her left breast tumor. During the tumor resection surgery, computed tomography also showed a tiny mass in her gall bladder (GB). After the surgery, positron emission tomography revealed an increased fluorodeoxyglucose-uptake in the GB mass. Abdominal ultrasonography and drip-infusion cholangiography revealed a sessile and mulberry-like tumor in the GB body (12.2 mm in a diameter), showing a typical appearance for GB carcinoma (1) (Picture 1, 2). Since no other B-LBL involvement was evident, we performed laparoscopic cholecystectomy before starting chemotherapy. The tumor (Picture 3) was capsulated with intact epithelium, and B-LBL (CD3-, CD20-, CD79a+, LCA+, TdT+: identical with her breast lymphoma) invaded the lamina propria of the gall bladder (Picture 4). The clinical course suggested that the two tumors should be considered as multicentric growth of the lymphoma.

Since lymphomas of GB are exceedingly rare (2), the differential diagnosis would be difficult. It should be noted that GB lymphoma can present a carcinoma-like appearance as observed in this case.

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References


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