Peliosis Hepatis Due to Corticosteroid in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

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A 51-year-old woman was diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) with nephritis. High-dose corticosteroid and intravenous cyclophosphamide (IVCY) therapy was administrated, and the disease activity of SLE was improved; however, a blood examination showed elevated levels of aspartate aminotransferase, alanine aminotransferase, and gamma-glutamyl transferase after these therapies. Therefore, IVCY was discontinued because drug-induced liver dysfunction was suspected; however, the elevation of liver enzymes continued to worsen. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography showed homogeneous contrast enhancement during the hepatic arterial phase (Picture A). Contrast-enhanced ultrasonography using Sonazoid revealed a hyperechoic peliotic lesion (1) (Picture B). These radiological findings strongly suggested peliosis hepatis (PH). A histological examination was not performed because a liver biopsy was not done.

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considered to carry a high risk of intraperitoneal bleeding. Reducing the dose of corticosteroid improved the liver dysfunction and the radiological findings (Picture C). Most patients with PH are asymptomatic; however, some afflicted patients have died after developing rupture of peliosis (2). Corticosteroid-induced PH is reported to be reversible. Therefore, clinicians should recall that corticosteroids are a causative drug of liver dysfunction in daily practice.

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Ethics

The study protocol was approved by the research ethical committees of Miyazaki University Hospital (The approval number: O-0191), Miyazaki, Japan.

Patient Consent

Written informed consent for publication of this report was obtained from the patient by the author.

References


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