

ATYPICAL PRESENTATION IN MULTIPLE MYELOMA

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Introduction

Multiple myeloma (MM) is an incurable disease that is characterized by the accumulation of clonal plasmocytes in the bone marrow.¹ It accounts for 10-15% of all hematological malignancies and 1-2% of all cancers. We present a case of pathological ulna fracture with underlying MM.

Report

A 59 years old lady with MM which was diagnosed 10 years ago, presented with a sudden onset of pain over her right forearm and denied history of trauma. On examination, her mid-forearm was tender with no swelling and intact neurovascular status. Radiographs revealed an undisplaced fracture of the right ulna with lytic lesion. Fracture was stabilized with a locking plate and lytic lesion was curetted Patient was then started on radiotherapy after the wound healed.



Figure1: Pre fixation radiograph (left) and post fixation radiograph (right)

Discussion

Bony pain and subsequent fractures in MM are most common in the thoracic and lumbar vertebral bodies.¹ Upper limb lesions and

pathological fractures such as the one seen in the presented case are relatively rare in MM.¹ Fractures result from direct myelomatous involvement of the bone and also can result from the generalized bone loss that is a hallmark of myeloma.¹ Dijkstra et al. compared plate osteosynthesis with adjunctive bone cement and intramedullary locking nail in the treatment of pathological fractures of long bone.² No significant difference between the two techniques was noted with regard to survival rate, pain relief, the restoration of function and complications.² Radiotherapy has been shown to help relieve pain in myeloma bone disease with success rates of 50-80%. Lack of stability and the radiotherapy would potentially explain the increased hyper-vascular response of the callus and the hypertrophic non-union. Hence, in this patient we opted for internal fixation prior to radiotherapy.¹

Conclusion

The benefits of surgical treatment for pathological fractures of long limb bones include pain relief, restoration of bone continuity, limb function and improved quality of life and allow early radiotherapy.³

Reference

1. Tosan et al; J Orthop Surg Res;.2010
2. Onder et al; Int Orthop; 2009
3. Consensus Surgical Management Myeloma Bone; (2017); Wiley Online Library