



Image of the Month

Isolated diaphragmatic metastasis from resected colorectal cancer

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In June 2013, a 68-year-old man underwent an emergency right hemicolectomy for an obstructive mass. The final histological examination revealed diagnosis of an adenocarcinoma of the ascending colon pT3pNX(0/3)M0 G2. The patient received eight cycles of adjuvant chemotherapy with oral fluoropyrimidine and subsequent follow-up. Postoperative CEA was negative. In September 2015 (27 months after the diagnosis) serum CEA level increases and TC scans showed a mass of 2 cm between diaphragm and liver. MRI confirmed the suspicious characteristic of the mass (Fig. 1).

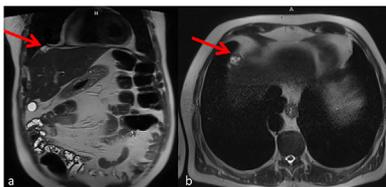


Fig. 1. MRI coronal (a) and axial scans (b) of the abdomen that show the isolated diaphragmatic mass.

FDG-PET showed a pathological uptake of the mass (Fig. 2); no other pathological findings were reported.

On December 2015, the patient underwent a partial resection of the diaphragm. Liver was macroscopically clean. The removed specimen was a metastatic localization of colorectal carcinoma, margins were negative.

The most common site of metastasis from colorectal carcinoma are liver, lung and peritoneum. Metastasis generally occur by lymphatic, hematogenous or local spread. Colorectal metastases of the

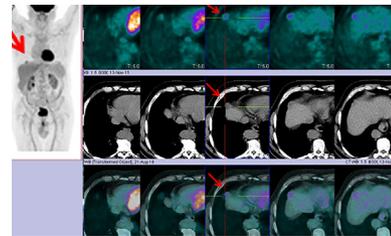


Fig. 2. FDG-PET scan that shows pathological uptake of the diaphragmatic metastasis.

diaphragm are extremely rare and very few cases are reported from the literature so far [1].

Even though lymphadenectomy performed during emergency surgery was not complete (<12 lymphnodes) we could hypothesize an hematogenous metastatic spread in our patients.

In June 2018 the patient is in good clinical conditions and laboratory and radiological findings did not show any sign of recurrence. The patient will continue follow-up.

Conflict of interest

None declared.

Reference

- [1] Yamamoto E, Yabe S, Hijikata K, Kobayashi K, Masuda T, Sugimoto H, et al. A case of solitary metastatic diaphragmatic tumor from resected rectal cancer. *Gan To Kagaku Ryoho* 2017;44(12):1361–3. Review. Japanese.

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