

A Rare Case Report in the Geriatric Practice: Kaposi's Sarcoma



Rabia Bag Soytaş, Ayşe Gul Satman Durmaz, Serdar Özkök, Suna Avcı and Alper Doventas*

Department of Internal Medicine, University of Istanbul, Turkey

***Corresponding author:** Alper Doventas, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Geriatrics, University of Istanbul, Cerrahpaşa Medical School, Turkey

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Abstract

Classical Kaposi's sarcoma is a rare condition, which is seen in men, especially those of Mediterranean and Jewish, between ages of 40-70 and has a good prognosis. In this case report, our aim is to emphasize the atypical presentation of the classical type of Kaposi's sarcoma, which was developed in a 91-year-old female patient. Although nutritional factors have been associated mostly with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome-related or endemic type of Kaposi sarcoma; the low score of our patient's mini-nutritional assessment (MNA) (17 points) suggests that nutrition status may also play a role in the development of a classical type of Kaposi sarcoma.

Background

Kaposi sarcoma was first described by Moriz Kaposi in 1872 [1,2]. According to clinical and epidemiological characteristics, there are four basic types of Kaposi sarcoma: epidemic or AIDS-related, immuno suppressed, classical and endemic (African type) [3]. Nutritional factors are mostly related to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome-related, or epidemic type [4]. The classical type has the best prognosis and is seen in men between the ages of 40 and 70, especially those of Mediterranean and Jewish [5]. Kaposi's sarcoma progresses slowly; it presents as red-purple maculae and patches in distal of lower-limbs at early stages; and later, it progresses to nodular lesions or vegetative masses [6]. We wanted to emphasize the atypical presentation of classical type Kaposi's sarcoma, which developed in a 91-year-old female.

Case Report

Our case is a 91-year-old female patient, who complained about erythematous, painful injuries on both of her lower extremities for almost 6 months. According to her statements, the lesions tended to grow further in time and she also had a fever at later stages. There was no other illness in her medical or family history. According to mini nutritional assessment (MNA), the patient had malnutrition (she received 17 points out of 30).

In her physical examination, body temperature was 38 °C, blood pressure and pulse rates were normal. There were 2 lesions on the medial side of the right foot, 1 lesion on the left side; which are about 2-3cm and regular margined. Also, the lesions were superficial, ulcerous and painful, slightly erythematous and covered with dry fibrin coat (Figure 1). In her laboratory tests, there were neu-

trophilic leukocytosis (WBC: 12.500mm³, neutrophil: 7900mm³) and elevated acute phase reactants (Crp: 97mg/dL, sedimentation: 57mm/h). The anti-HIV antibody test was negative. The rheumatological markers in terms of vasculitis (C-ANCA/ P-ANCA/ MPO-ANCA/PR3-ANCA) were also negative. At the peripheral blood smear examination, 10% of leucocytes showed as band cells, 55% were segmented neutrophils, 5% were monocytes, 25% lymphocytes, 5% eosinophils. Platelets were sufficient and erythrocytes were recorded as normochromic normocytic. Arterial blood supply was decreased in both lower extremities due to the advanced age, according to arterial doppler ultrasonography. Piperacillin-tazobactam and teicoplanin sensitive *Providencia rettgeri* colonies were isolated in the deep tissue culture.



Figure 1:

Histopathological examination showed fibrinoid substances in lumen and walls of some vessels, prominent vessel proliferation, characterized by neutrophil, polymorph, and nucleus fragments; Morphologically, a vascular pathology (thrombus?) was first thought to be a secondary vasculopathy. Because a focally disorganized endothelial architecture is detected, immuno histochemical stain for HHV-8 is applied and a focal HHV-8 positive area was found then. Therefore, the lesion was thought to be compatible with lymphangioma-like Kaposi sarcoma. The deep tissue biopsy concluded as Kaposi's sarcoma.

PET-CT was taken to look for systemic involvement. Focal malignant FDG accumulations were detected on the medial plantar surface of the right foot, the lateral side of the left foot and posterior of the left heel (Figure 2). As a result, the patient was diagnosed as locally advanced, classical type of Kaposi's Sarcoma and radiotherapy plan was done for the treatment.

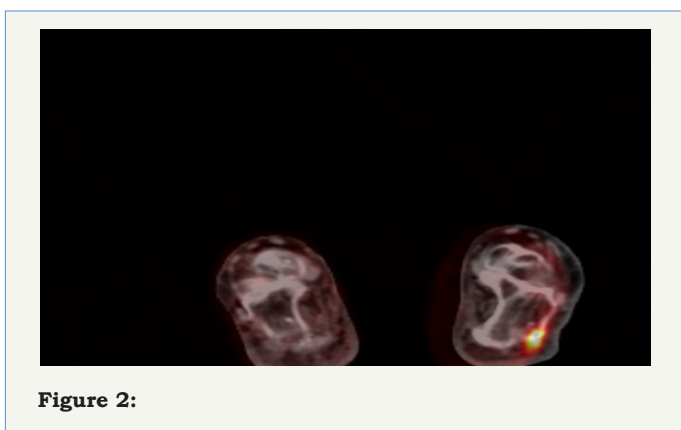


Figure 2:

Conclusion

Kaposi's sarcoma-classical type is a rare condition and usually occurs in older men in the form of painless, red-violet macules and patches that settle in the lower extremities [7,8]. Our patient differs from usual cases because of gender, older age, her atypical and painful lesions and the absence of other common Kaposi's sarcoma etiologies (diabetes, malignancy, HIV, any disease-causing immuno suppression, etc.). A lymphangioma type of Classical Kaposi's sarcoma; which is very rare (less than 5% of all Kaposi's sarcoma) and known to respond well to radiotherapy even in the advanced stag-

es, should be considered in geriatric cases in such resistant wounds [9,10]. Although nutritional factors have been associated with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome-related or endemic type; the low score of our patient's MNA (17 points) suggests that malnutrition may also play a role in the occurrence of a classical type of Kaposi's sarcoma. Lower hemoglobin and hematocrit values have described significantly lower among patients with CKS as compared with controls without the disease in two studies [11,12]. This also suggest that classic Kaposi's sarcoma may be related to nutrition.

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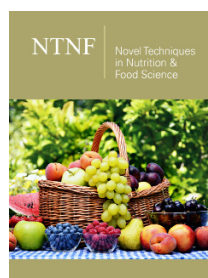
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