



Tuberculous Lymphadenitis in Surgical Practice A Study of 150 Cases Diagnosis and Approach

KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT *The aim of the study is to diagnose the patients in the surgical OPDs by different diagnostic criteria, to know the frequency and incidence, treat the disease, role of surgery in the practice and rule out the differential diagnosis of other possibilities ranging from inflammatory, lymphomas, secondaries in the neck etc. FNAC proved to be reliable in the diagnosis.*

Inclusion criteria

Patients attending the surgical OPDs from the age of 13yrs to 60yrs about 150 cases were studied out of which 130 cases are females and 20 are male patients. The patients commonly presented with neck swellings 150 patients (100%) follow-up done 130 patients (86%) are females. Fever commonly evening raise of temperature in 102 patients (68%), weight loss in 80 patients (53.3%), diagnosed inflammatory adenitis 6 patients (4%), lymphomas 8 patients (5.3%), secondaries in 6 patients (4%).

Background

Tuberculous lymphadenitis is one of the most common extra pulmonary manifestation of tuberculosis⁶. Tuberculosis remains the common cause of cervical lymphoadenopathy in many low income countries⁶.

The commonest symptoms are swelling in the neck, cough, fever and anorexia. Human body consist of a number of defence mechanisms to counter infections and diseases. Lymphnodes as part of the immune system usually enlarge when ever any pathology occur in their area of drainage². Head & Neck masses are common clinical concern in infants, children and adults³. There are no. of etiologies that can cause cervical Lymphnodes to enlarge. The frequent ones being tuberculosis, reactive, inflammatory lymphoadenitis and malignancy⁴.

Cervical lymphoadenopathy can be early detected by ultrasonography which has a sensitivity of 96.8%, while more advance high resolution ultrasound can detect a cervical mass measuring <2mm in diameter while definitive diagnosis usually requires tissue biopsy are FNAC^{5,6}.

Tuberculosis, majority contributes to the global disease burden with almost 1/3 of world the population by its causative organism⁸ Mycobacterium. Tuberculosis accounts for almost 1.3 million deaths worldwide annually⁹.

Results

In about 150 patients the study was conducted where they were subjected to Complete Blood Picture (CBP), Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology (FNAC), ultrasound of neck, mantoux test. Age range of the patients affected are 13 to 60yrs 130 patients (86%), were females, males are 20 pa-

tients (14%), fever in 102 patients (68%), loss of weight in 80 patients (53.3%) etc.,

Excision biopsy was performed in few patient where FNAC was doubtful histopathology revealed that 160 patients (84%) had tuberculosis followed by 6 patients inflammatory (4%), lymphomas 8 patients (5.3%), secondaries in 6 patients (4) etc.,

Discussion

Tuberculosis is most frequent infectious disease of lymphoid tissue and it is inoculable in nature¹⁴. It is a major public health concern worldwide a specially in countries with high incidence of prevalence¹³. Cervical lymphoadenopathy can be a manifestation of simple local inflammatory reaction to a spectrum of diseases including malignant lymphomas¹⁵.

Tuberculosis is a commonly prevalent disease in countries with poverty like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan etc.,¹⁶. A study of Sheikh et al showed around 68.9% of the patients had tuberculosis lymphoadenitis among all cases of cervical lymphoadenopathy¹⁸. A study of Magsi et al showed about 51.7% patients with cervical lymphoadenopathy had tuberculosis while 21.43% has reactive hyperplasia¹³.

In our study the results showed that the most common presentation was neck swellings present in 100% of patients out of which female are 86%, males 14%, fever 68%, inflammatory in 4%, lymphomas in 5.3%, secondaries in 4% of patients etc.,

Conclusion

Our study shows that in Andhra Pradesh has a poverty where the patients have poor hygiene, overcrowding, poor nutrition, slums where poor drainage system had presented with neck swellings fever, loss of weight, cough etc., shows that one of the common cause of these symptoms in tuberculosis caused by mycobacterium tuberculosis, which is curable with different modalities of treatment like short term and long term regimens and by improving the sanitation and hygiene and good nutrition in patients.

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