

A response letter

1. ADD more to Introduction of basic disease

Kaposi Sarcoma is a low-degree tumour consisting of multicentric vascular nodules. Human Herpes Virus type 8 (HHV8) , also known as KSHV, is an aetiological agent of KS(1). KSHV infects characteristic spindle cells of endothelial origin, B cells, keratinocytes, and expresses a wide range of genes encoding proliferation, angiogenesis, thus leads to pathogenesis of KS(1-3). Because of HIV-1 tat gene product, HIV-1 and KSHV can accelerate replication reciprocally. In the meantime, upregulated Th1-type cytokines induce reactivation of KSHV and growth of the disease(3-5). It usually presents as cutaneous or mucous lesions undergoing three stages patch, plaque and nodular(2). Pain, oedema and ulceration may occur when lymphatic obstruction involves subcutaneous tissue(4). Visceral KS only accounts for a small part which can be life-threatening. It is symptomless at the beginning followed by exacerbation when it advances(1). Although combination anti-retroviral therapy(ART) is still the mainstay of treatment for acquired immune deficiency syndrome(AIDS)-related KS, tumor-specific therapies including cytotoxic agents and anti-angiogenic agents are necessary for aggressive type(3).

We present herein, a HIV/HBV co-infected liver cirrhosis patient who manifested as lower GI bleeding. This case shows us essential colonoscopy and pathological diagnosis should not be forgotten for visceral KS with GI bleeding. We use "Kaposi Sarcoma", "HIV", "gastrointestinal bleeding" and pertinent words to search the articles on Pubmed.

2. Discuss the role of imaging using these references

Imaging as a reliable, non-invasive method plays an important role in diagnosis and prognosis of the AIDS-related KS. Razek AA et al(14)showed that apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) of the spleen could act as a simple predictor of esophageal varices in cirrhotic patients through

diffusion-weighted MR imaging. In our case, at the very beginning abdominal CT showed us morphologic characteristics, location and number of lesions, as well as enhancement pattern, but cannot be sure of the tissue-specific diagnosis. It also presented us decreased size of tumor in CT and great improvement in hypermetabolic activity in PET-CT after treatments of HAART and chemotherapy. Imaging techniques and findings do help a lot in complementing to discriminate nature of tumors(15). {Yang, 2019 #201}

3. I have updated the references of this manuscript.

4. I have put original pictures in the PPT.

5. I have changed the grant number in "*supported by*". Now, it is 2017ZX10202102-002-002; 2018ZX10715-014-004. I submit grant application forms in the system.

6. I provide the informed consent with an official seal affixed.