

## Primary bilateral non-Hodgkin's lymphoma of the adrenal gland

Sir,

I have two comments on the interesting case report by Raoofziaee *et al.*<sup>[1]</sup> published in the October–December 2018 issue of the *Indian Journal of Urology*.

First, the authors described the clinical presentation, imaging findings, and histopathologic and immunohistochemical results as well as the chemotherapy plan of the primary bilateral non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) of the adrenal gland in a 38-year-old Iranian patient.<sup>[1]</sup> I assume that the rarity of this aggressive tumor occurring at an unusual site would have alerted the authors to take into consideration the possibility of impaired immune status in the studied patient. Among the conditions associated with defective immunity, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is paramount. My assumption is based on the following point. It is known that due to impaired immunity, co-infection with oncogenic viruses increases, and with increased life expectancy secondary to the use of antiretroviral therapy, patients with HIV infection are at greater risk to various kinds of tumors compared to immunocompetent individuals.<sup>[2]</sup> Among these tumors, NHL has been reported in patients infected

with HIV.<sup>[3]</sup> In Iran, HIV infection is an evolving health hazard. Although no data are present on the current HIV seroprevalence in Iran, the available data suggest that the overall HIV rates have alarmingly increased by 80% per year for the past decade.<sup>[4]</sup> I assume that the authors did not consider the underlying HIV infection in the studied patient as the contemplated laboratory tests did not include HIV testing. I also assume that the contemplation of the diagnostic panel of blood CD4 lymphocyte count and viral overload measurements was envisaged in the studied patient. If that panel was done and it revealed HIV positivity, the case in question could be truly regarded a novel case report. This is because HIV-associated primary bilateral adrenal NHL has never been reported in the published literature to date.

Second, the pathogenesis of primary lymphoma of the adrenal gland is still a matter of research. The detection of the presence of both Epstein–Barr virus (EBV) and JC polyomavirus (JCV) genome sequences in biopsy specimens suggests the relevance of EBV and JCV co-infection in the pathogenesis of this rare type of tumors.<sup>[5]</sup> I assume that an attempt to detect EBV and JCV DNA sequences in the studied patient was also solicited.

### Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form the patient(s) has/have given his/her/their consent for his/her/their images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal their identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

### Mahmood Dhahir Al-Mendalawi\*

Department of Paediatrics, Al-Kindy College of Medicine,  
University of Baghdad, Baghdad, Iraq  
\*E-mail: mdalmendalawi@yahoo.com

### REFERENCES

1. Raofziae M, Yarmohamadi A, Ahmadnia H. Primary bilateral non-Hodgkin's lymphoma of the adrenal gland. *Indian J Urol* 2018;34:300-2.
2. Valencia Ortega ME. Malignancies and infection due to the human immunodeficiency virus. Are these emerging diseases? *Rev Clin Esp* 2018;218:149-55.
3. Busi Rizzi E, Schininà V, Cristofaro M, Bellussi A, Alba L, Bibbolino C, *et al.* Primary renal non-Hodgkin's lymphoma with inferior vena cava involvement: Report of one case in HIV-infected patient. *Radiol Med* 2002;103:279-82.
4. Heidary M, Nasiri MJ. Why has HIV/AIDS prevalence increased in Iran? *Clin Infect Dis* 2016;63:846.
5. Barzon L, Trevisan M, Marino F, Guzzardo V, Palù G. Primary bilateral adrenal B-cell lymphoma associated with EBV and JCV infection. *Infect Agent Cancer* 2009;4:1.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Received: 3-12-2018, Accepted: 15-01-2019

Financial support and sponsorship: Nil.

Conflicts of interest: There are no conflicts of interest.

Access this article online	
Quick Response Code:	Website: www.indianjurol.com
	DOI: 10.4103/iju.IJU_359_18

How to cite this article: Al-Mendalawi MD. Primary bilateral non-Hodgkin's lymphoma of the adrenal gland. *Indian J Urol* 2019;35:173-4.  
© 2019 Indian Journal of Urology | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow