Primary Accessory Breast Carcinoma; Case Report and Review of the Literature

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Abstract

Primary ectopic breast carcinoma (PEBC) is a very rare and progressive case, most commonly encountered in the advanced stage. Most of the cases develop from the ectopic breast tissue (EBT), and it may occur along the milk line within the area from the axilla to the external genital region. EBT is observed in the 6% of the female population and is mostly encountered in the axilla. Clinically, the most frequently encountered type of PEBC is the one which originates from the EBT located in the axillary and it constitutes 70% of all PEBCs. Histopathologically, the most common type is invasive ductal carcinoma (72%). Mammography and ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration (FNA) employed in the diagnosis of PEBC and also in the differential diagnosis of lipoma, lymphadenitis, metastatic carcinoma and the lesions such as hidradenitis suppurativa. In the surgical treatment of PEBC is recommended the resection of the tumor tissue with the skin together and the dissection of the regional LNs. Loco-regional approach (Ro local excision+axillary dissection+radiotherapy) has been considered to be the most appropriate method in PEBC treatment and has been employed for 15 years.

Keywords: Primer ectopic breast carcinoma; Ectopic breast tissue; Diagnosis; Treatment

Introduction

Primary ectopic breast carcinoma (PEBC) is a very rare and progressive case most commonly encountered in the advanced stage. Most of the cases develop from the ectopic/accessory breast tissue (EBT). Embryologically, EBT originates from ectoderm thickening and it may occur along the milk line within the area from the axilla to the external genital region. In this study we aimed to discuss the epidemiology, clinic and treatment of PEMC originating from the EBT in axilla, which is very rare and follows a progressive clinical course.

Case Presentation

The 56-year-old female patient reported that she had felt firmness in the right axilla for about 5 years and a skin retraction over the past year. Physical examination revealed an about 3 × 4 cm palpable mass in the right axilla, causing the retraction of the skin. In the physical examination of both breasts; left axilla, bilateral supraclavicular fossa and bilateral servicervical lymph node areas were normal.

In USG, 23 × 20 mm lesion in right axilla (brads V) determined. Preoperative stage were T2N2M0 (Mammography were normal). Surgical resection included loco-regional surgery (Ro resection+axillary lymphadenectomy) and lesion with skin (Figure 1). Histopathological study revealed an invasive ductal carcinoma (ER+3, PR+3, Her2/neu (c-erbB2) score: 1+, Ki-67 %10, E-Cadherin+). The diameter of the tumor was 1.7 cm. It was Grade 2 according to the MBR (Modified Bloom Richardson) and lymphovascular invasion and perineural invasion were positive. There were 2 metastatic lymph nodes. Surgical margins were tumor negative.

Postoperative, to examination of a possible distant organs and bone metastases implemented FDG-PET. FDG-PET revealed involvement in C5, T10 and L2 vertebres (degenerative changes) and in the right axilla (surgical changes). Postoperative stages of tumor were T1N1M0.

Ipsilateral mastectomy did not implemented, received postoperative radiotherapy and chemotheraphy/ hormonotherapy of patient is continued (Figure 2). Before this article is written, informed consent was obtained from the patient.

Discussion and Conclusion

Ectopic breast tissue is most commonly encountered in the axilla, but can also be seen in the face, chest wall, posterior neck area, back, hips, flank area, vulva, femoral area, shoulders and upper extremities [1]. Clinically, the most frequently encountered type of PEBC is the one which originates from the EBT located in the axillary and it constitutes 70% of all PEBCs [2]. Histopathologically, the most common type is invasive ductal carcinoma (72%). Invasive lobular carcinoma and medullary carcinoma are less common (12%). Other carcinoma types constitute the remaining 16% [3]. In anamnesis, PEBC is defined as a progressive tumor with unilateral subcutaneous location, but having no

Figure 1: Surgical resection, lesion with skin

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The primary goal in the treatment of PEBC is to perform Ro resection along with adjuvant therapy, if possible. Since LN involvement is very common in these patients, systemic therapy often becomes a necessity [8]. According to the classification of AJCC; stage I, II and IIA-B patients should receive loco-regional surgery (Ro resection+axillary lymphadenectomy) and a radiotherapy following the hormonotherapy or chemotherapy [5]. Loco-regional surgical treatment has provided ≥ 10 years of cancer-free survival rates in patients both who received and who did not receive postoperative radiotherapy. Loco-regional approach (Ro local excision+ axillary dissection+radiotherapy) has been considered to be the most appropriate method in PEBC treatment and has been employed for 15 years [5]. In case, loco-regional surgical (Ro resection+axillary lymphadenectomy) treatment implemented. Patient, received adjuvant radiotherapy, its chemotherapy and hormonotherapy on going.

In the past, ipsilateral mastectomy was employed in PEBC treatment, but it is controversial. If there is no sign of tumor in the anatomical breast tissue, ipsilateral mastectomy should not be performed [8]. In our case did not implemented mastectomy. Radiotherapy should cover the areas of the tumor tissue, regional skin and regional LNs [8].

In the differential diagnosis of the masses causing chronic symptoms and signs, especially the ones observed in the axilla or along the milk line, PEBC should be considered, and clinical, radiological and histopathological examinations should be performed.

If signs of malignancy are observed, in addition to preoperative staging, the liver and the skeletal system into which primary anatomical breast cancer has metastasized should also be evaluated. In surgical treatment, Ro resection including axillary LN dissection should be performed and adjuvant radiotherapy, chemotherapy/hormonal therapy should certainly be performed. If any pathological findings are detected in the ipsilateral breast tissue, mastectomy should be performed. PEBC is often in advanced stage and should be followed multidisciplinary.

Informed Consent
Written informed consent was obtained from patients who participated in this study.

Author Contributions
UM and KE: Concept
YI: Supervision
OC and KE: Literature Review
KE: Writing
GH: Critical Review

Conflict of Interest
No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

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