ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SINUS HISTIOCYTOSIS AND RENAL CELL CARCINOMA: A CASE SERIES

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Background: Rosai and Dorfman described in 1969 a rare entity characterized clinically by massive lymphadenopathy (LAD) and histologically by S-100 positive histiocytes with phagocytosis of leucocytes. This entity is known as sinus histiocytosis (SH) and is usually benign. SH involves frequently many organs including the kidneys and an association with different types of malignancy has been reported but none including renal cell carcinoma (RCC).

Methods: We performed a systematic search by diagnostic codes of all cases of SH associated with RCC seen at our institution from 1976 to 2007.

Results: We found five cases of SH associated with RCC. Two of five were male. Age at diagnosis of RCC ranged from 22 to 85 years. RCC was diagnosed 7 years after the diagnosis of SH in one case, 1 and 4 years prior to SH in 2 cases respectively, and at the time of SH diagnosis in 2 cases. RCC was found at autopsy (1 case), during work up of cholelithiasis (1 case), back pain (1 case) and LAD (1case). The type of RCC was clear cell in 3 cases, chromophobe and unknown in the remaining 2 cases. SH presented as inguinal or axillary LAD in 3 cases. In the other 2 cases, SH was found incidentally on paraaortic LAD removed during a nephrectomy for RCC. In all cases SH resolved spontaneously. RCC recurred in only one case.

Conclusion: SH is a rare entity and to our knowledge this is the first case series reporting an association with RCC. The significance of such association remains to be determined.