CASE REPORT

Primary Malignant Melanoma of Uterine Cervix

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Introduction

Primary malignant melanoma of the cervix, a rare neoplasm occurs in a wide age range, from 19–83 years [1]. Of these only about 9–13 % involve the cervix, rest of them involve the vulva and vagina [2]. Vaginal bleeding or discharge is the commonest mode of presentation. Cervical melanoma is thought to arise from the melanocytic cells of the cervix.

Occasional tumors are detected during routine clinical examination by a cervical smear or the discovery of a distant metastasis [2]. The tumors are usually polypoid and red, brown, gray, black, or blue. Frequently, they are ulcerated. About 25 % of cases are amelanotic. We present a rare case of primary malignant melanoma arising in the cervix.

Case Report

A 35-year-old multiparous female presented with a history of bleeding per vaginum and abdominal pain of 2 months duration. Speculum examination showed an ulcero-proliferative black colored growth involving the cervix. Biopsy

was taken and sent for histopathologic examination. Gross examination showed a $4 \times 3 \times 2$ cm³ ulcero-proliferative lesion in cervix involving both ecto and endocervix. Cut-surface of the growth was dark-brown.

Microscopic examination showed a cellular tumor composed of sheets of small cells. Cells had moderate amount of eosinophilic cytoplasm, predominantly monomorphic nuclei with few cells showing prominent eosinophilic nucleoli (Fig. 1). Fair number of cells showed the presence of non-refractile dark-brown intracytoplasmic pigment. Masson's-Fontana stain confirmed its nature to be melanin. A possibility of melanoma was suggested.

Careful search and multiple sections revealed subtle epitheliotropism of malignant cells in endocervical epithelium. Tumor cells were positive for S-10, HMB-45, and Melan-A [3], thus, confirming the diagnosis.

Melanoma in the uterine cervix may be melanotic or amelanotic and is usually composed of cells displaying variable degree of pleomorphism and prominent eosinophilic nucleoli. The neoplastic cells are epithelioid or spindle in nature. About half of all the mucosal melanomas are amelanotic. An extensive search for a melanotic lesion in skin, uveal tract, and other mucosal sites was negative. Due to the absence of a primary site of melanoma and the epitheliotropism of melanoma cells, a diagnosis of primary cervical melanoma was made.

To conclude, primary cervical melanoma should be kept in differential diagnosis of cervical neoplasms, and the diagnosis should be confirmed using special stains and immuno-histochemistry, if required. Cervical melanoma is

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Fig. 1 Microphotograph showing sheets of monomorphic cells with prominent nucleoli (H&E, $\times 400$)

highly aggressive as both local recurrence and wide spread metastasis usually occur within a short span of few months to 2 years of diagnosis.

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