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Key Words

Prostatic rhabdomyosarcoma

Adult

Autopsy

ABSTRACT

Rhabdomyosarcoma of the prostate is a rare, highly malignant tumor that occurs mostly in male infants and children. Only sporadic cases of prostatic rhabdomyosarcoma in adults have been reported. A case of embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma of the prostate in a 38-yr-old male is documented here. The patient went through a rapid and fatal clinical course. An autopsy was performed. Metastatic lesions were found in the bilateral lungs, bilateral pleura, pericardium, spine, meninges, diaphragm, liver, and lymph nodes of the neck and pulmonary hilum. Lung metastasis occurred with marked and extensive hemorrhagic necrosis contributing to respiratory failure, which was the direct cause of death.

PRESENTATION OF CASE

A 38-yr-old male was admitted to the urology ward because of difficulty in urination, dysuria, and abdominal distension for 1 wk. Urethral catheterization was performed under the impression of chronic prostatitis with calculi.

The patient was quite well before. He denied any systemic disease such as diabetes mellitus, hypertension, heart disease, or renal disease. No history of blood transfusion, operation, or drug abuse was reported. He had drunk 1 bottle of alcoholic beverage per day for more than 10 yrs. He was also a heavy smoker and had no regular job. The family history was not contributed.

Physical examination on admission showed his body temperature to be 37.4 °C, pulse rate 88, respiration rate 22, and blood pressure 120/88 mm Hg. Digital rectal examination revealed marked enlargement of the prostate with elastic consistency. The head and neck were normal. The bilateral lungs were symmetrically expanded and clear on auscultation. No spider angioma was seen. The abdomen was soft and not tender. No superficial vein engorgement was noted. The liver and the spleen were not palpable. The extremities were freely movable. No pitting edema nor palmar erythema was found. The neurological examination was normal.

At admission, laboratory examination revealed nearly normal complete blood count except for a slight

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