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Case Study
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"Muscle Like" Metastasis of Large Cell Undifferentiated Carcinoma of the Lung to the Retroscapular Soft Tissue

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Abstract

The skeletal muscle is a very unusual site of metastasis from any malignancy. Extremely rare is a metastasis from lung cancer. The most common metastatic sites of non-small cell lung cancer are the liver, adrenal glands, lungs and pleura, bone and central nervous system. We report a case of large cell undifferentiated lung carcinoma histologically proven metastasis in the right scapular area.

Keywords: Non-small cell lung carcinoma; "Muscle like" metastases; CT

Case Study

A 61 years old men admitted to the department of cardiology because acute heart event. On routine chest X-ray a pulmonary lesion was observed. Fine niddle aspiration showed large cell undifferentiated carcinoma, predominantly clear cell type. Left pneumonectomy was performed. The tumor was 7.5 cm in diameter. No vascular invasion or perineural invasion was seen. Bronchial margin of resection was free of tumor. The tumor did not involve the lobar bronchi, and the pleura. Peribronchial lymph nodes were free of tumor. It was staged $T_2N_0M_0$. Four months after surgery, a solid mass appeared in right scapular region. Chest CT scan (Figure 1) at the scapular level showed well defined retroscapular soft tissue solid homogeneous mass 4.5 cm × 5.5 cm × 3.0 cm with peripheral enhancement after intravenous contrast injection. No bone involvement was noted. Metastatic lung carcinoma was confirmed by true-cut biopsy. Two cycles of neoadjuvant chemotherapy were given: Gemcitabine 1250 mg/m^2 (D1 and D8) and Cisplatin 100 mg/m^2 (D8), and the total removal of tumor were performed. The pathologic examination showed metastatic large cell undifferentiated carcinoma, with clear cells. Tumor's morphological features were consisted with lung cancer. No tumor was seen in skin. Adjuvant radiotherapy was given to the tumoral bed, using 9 meVe- to a total dose of 4000 cGy. The skeletal muscle metastasis of lung carcinoma is an infrequent occurrence. Only a few cases of muscle metastasis of the lung were reported [1-3]. There is a controversy concerning the optimal treatment modality of soft tissue metastases of non-small cell lung cancer. Treatment should be individualized according to the underlying disease and its prognosis, but for the typical patient with a metastatic carcinoma, mean survival duration is approximately 6 months [4]. In our case the aggressive treatment-neoadjuvant chemotherapy, surgery, and radiotherapy was true, the patient is free of disease 12 months after treatment.

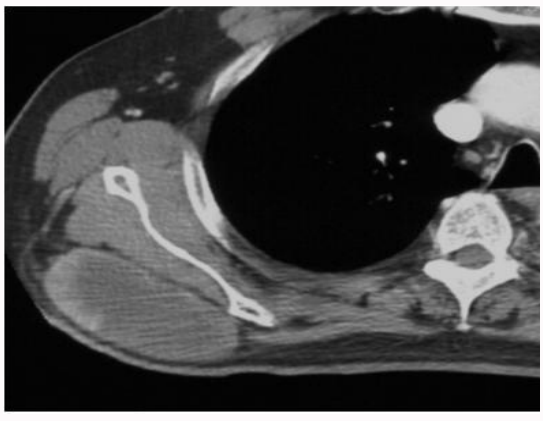

Figure 1: "Muscle like" metastasis to the retroscapular soft tissue.

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