MALIGNANT MELANOMA OF RECTUM: A RARE TUMOR

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INTRODUCTION

- Primary malignant melanoma of rectum is extremely rare and highly aggressive tumor.
- It originates from the melanocytes near the dentate line that progress upward from the submucosa towards the rectum.
- Most common presenting symptoms are tenesmus, rectal bleeding and altered bowel habit.
- Due to the aggressive nature of this tumor, early diagnosis and prompt treatment is required.

CASE REPORT

- A 52 years old male comes to surgery department of RIMS, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India with complaints of bleeding per rectum for 3 months, feeling of mass in rectum for one and half month and significant weight loss in past one month.
- Digital rectal examination revealed a fleshy mass in the rectum.
- Rectosigmoidoscopy revealed an irregular surface mass with a diameter of approximately 60 mm located on the right wall of the lower rectum, 30 mm from the anal verge.
- Colonoscopy was performed but it remains insignificant. CT scan of pelvis, abdomen and thorax was performed but no evidence of metastases was seen.
- Examination of eye and skin was performed to rule out cutaneous and ocular lesions.
- Biopsy was performed of this fleshy mass which was histologically reported as undifferentiated carcinoma, but to rule out malignant melanoma IHC with HMB-45 and S-100 was done. Both of which came positive confirming the case of amelanotic melanoma.

DISCUSSION

- The incidence of primary rectal melanoma is 0.4%-3% of all malignant melanoma and 0.1%-4.6% of all anorectal malignant tumor.
- Because of non-specific symptoms, clinically it is easily confused with haemorrhoids.
- It is often misdiagnosed histologically especially in amelanotic cases with undifferentiated carcinoma, lymphoma and sarcoma.
- But immunohistochemical stains S-100 and HMB-45 confirm the diagnosis of rectal melanoma.

CONCLUSION

- The case is being reported for its rarity. Immunohistochemistry confirms the diagnosis of rectal melanoma.
- Prognosis of malignant melanoma depends upon staging.
- It is important to detect rectal malignant melanoma at an early stage to increase patient survival.

REFERENCES