

Cytomegalovirus infection of endocrine system in a patient with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Report of a case

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ABSTRACT

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is an opportunistic pathogen causing different diseases in immunocompromised patients and leading to death in a high percentage of cases. CMV infection is also relatively frequent among patients with hematological malignancies, especially when treated with immunosuppressive agents. We describe the clinical history of a patient with stage IV diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) treated with eight courses of R-CHOP every two weeks, who presented clinical remission of the disease at the end of therapy. However, two months later he developed neurological symptoms due to cerebellar involvement and a subcutaneous dorsal lymphomatous infiltration. He had a partial response after chemotherapy and brain radiotherapy, but his clinical course was complicated by fever and hypotension. Although the fever resolved with broad-spectrum antibiotics, he presented progressive endocrine failure and died three weeks later. Autopsy confirmed disseminated multi-organ involvement by DLBCL associated with an unexpected CMV infection of the lungs and several endocrine organs including the pituitary gland, pancreatic islets and adrenals, a clinical association not previously reported in the English literature.

Key words: cytomegalovirus, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, endocrine system, multiendocrine failure.

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