Primary solitary extramedullary plasmacytoma involving the true vocal cords in a pregnant woman

Soumya Ghatak¹, Mainak Dutta¹, Indranath Kundu², and Rajendra Prasad Ganguly³

¹Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Surgery, RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata, West Bengal; ²Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Surgery, Burdwan Medical College and Hospital, Burdwan, West Bengal; ³Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

ABSTRACT

Primary solitary extramedullary plasmacytoma of the larynx involving the true vocal cords is an extremely rare entity. Extramedullary plasmacytoma has the potential to transform into multiple myeloma and mandates strict vigilance and routine follow-up. We describe such a case in a 29-year-old pregnant woman who presented with progressive hoarseness, dysphagia and intermittent respiratory difficulty. Fiberoptic laryngoscopy revealed a fleshy mass involving the posterior third of the true vocal cords, encroaching on the ventricle and false cords. Histopathology and immunohistochemistry revealed extramedullary plasmacytoma of a monoclonal nature. In spite of Bence Jones proteinuria and a rising serum β₂-microglobulin level, a thorough search for metastasis and subsequent treatment with radiotherapy were delayed due to the patient's pregnancy. She is the youngest adult ever reported with primary solitary extramedullary plasmacytoma involving the true cords. Described for the first time in pregnancy, the relevant issues in management are highlighted.

Key words: extramedullary plasmacytoma, solitary, primary, true vocal cords, pregnancy.

Conflict of interest: None declared.

Financial disclosure: Nil.

Correspondence to: Mainak Dutta, c/o Dr Soumya Ghatak, B-24/3, Kalindi Housing Estate, Kolkata 700089, West Bengal, India. Tel +91-9830737587; email duttamainak@yahoo.com

Received January 13, 2012; accepted July 20, 2012.