Primary lymph node plasmacytoma: A rare clinical entity, diagnosed by fine-needle aspiration cytology

Sir,

Extramedullary plasmacytoma (EMP), either nodal or extra-nodal has been defined as an autonomous proliferation of monoclonal plasma cells exhibiting varying stages of maturation and producing a localized mass or resulting in diffuse infiltration.[1] It accounts for 2% of all extramedullary plasma cell tumors and only 0.08% of all plasma cell neoplasms.[1] We report herein an extremely rare case of primary lymph node plasmacytoma (PLNP), in a 38-year-old male who presented to our hospital with a chief complaints of fever of 2 years duration associated with nonprogressive swelling in right side of neck since 2 months. On examination, the swelling showed 3-4 matted lymph nodes forming a nontender mass of about 1.5 × 1.5 cm in size. Ultrasound examination revealed features of reactive lymphadenopathy. The hematological and biochemical investigations of the patient were within normal limits. A bone marrow examination revealed normal bone marrow study with plasma cells of about 6%.

Fine-needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) performed on the lymph node mass showed cellular smears exhibiting both mature and immature plasma cells including myeloma cells scattered singly and arranged in small clusters along with presence of numerous neutrophils in the background. Binucleate and multinucleate forms were also present, plasma cells showed prominent eccentric nuclei, coarse chromatin, perinuclear halo and basophilic cytoplasm, while myeloma cells had high N:C ratio, fine chromatin, prominent nucleoli and little or no halo [Figure 1a and b]. A diagnosis of PLNP was made on cytology.

Primary lymph node plasmacytoma is rare entity and in order to diagnose the same there should be no
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Figure 1: (a) Fine-needle aspiration cytology smear from lymph node showing sheets of plasmacytoid cells with neutrophils and lymphocytes in the background (Giemsa stain, ×100). (b) Smear showing cluster of myeloma cells and mature plasma cells (Giemsa stain, ×400)

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