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Unusual presentation of pheochromocytoma mimicking liver paraganglioma

Hisham Alharbi
King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

Background: Pheochromocytoma is a rare neuroendocrine tumor that arises from the chromaffin cells of the adrenal medulla.

We report a rare case of a woman in her 70s who presented to emergency department with symptoms of fatige, dizziness and weight loss. A diagnostic approach including a basic labs and CT scan showed a large hepatic lesion. For further characterisation of the mass, a biopsy of the lesion was performed, demonstrating that the tumor is of neuroendocrine origin. This was supported by a free metanephrine test showing high levels of catecholamine breakdown products. Treatment consisted of a unique multidisciplinary approach involving hepatobiliary and all owing a safe and complete extermination of the hepatic tumor, then underwent partial hepatectomy, and adrenalectomy.

Conclusion: Pheochromocytoma is a rare tumor, which can present with unusual manifestations such as severe abdominal pain. A high level of suspicion should be kept in mind to avoid any delay in diagnosing such a serious but treatable disease.

Key words: pheochromocytoma, presentation, metanephrine, unusal

Biography

Dr. Hisham Alharbi is a medical professional and researcher affiliated with King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. He specializes in the field of rare medical conditions, including endocrine and metabolic disorders. Dr. Alharbi has contributed to advancing clinical understanding of pheochromocytoma, a rare tumor, with his work focusing on unusual presentations, such as cases mimicking liver paraganglioma. His research emphasizes diagnostic challenges and innovative approaches to treatment.