

A Case Report of Patient's Self Evaluation due to Similar Symptoms with Black Panther's Colon Cancer and Final Diagnosis of Sarcoidosis

Vishnu Vinodhan Rajakumar

University Malaysia Sabah
vishnu[at]ums.edu.my

Abstract: A 36-year-old male patient presented himself to the clinic with complaints of loss of weight despite a good appetite. His unintentional weight loss was about 25kg in 4 months. There was no vomiting, no alteration in the bowel habit and there was no yellowish discoloration of the skin. The patient also did not have shortness of breath, abdominal pain, fever, or any urinary symptoms. He had normal bowel habits with no history of passing out melanic stool. He has no significant family history of malignancy. He smokes 5 to 6 sticks per day and consumes alcohol occasionally. He took notice of his symptoms only when he came across the news death of Black Panther's lead actor, Chadwick Boseman. His assumption was he had colon cancer like Boseman. The patient was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis based on clinical, radiological, and HPE findings. He is currently undergoing treatment during the time of reporting.

Keywords: Sarcoidosis, colon cancer

1. Introduction

43 year old, 2018 Marvel Studios megahit Black Panther star, Chadwick Boseman, died of colon cancer in 2020. Boseman, who was diagnosed 4 years ago, kept his condition a secret and continued filming his recent movies while continuing his countless surgeries and chemotherapy. When the actor was diagnosed in 2016, the cancer was at stage III which meant that the cancer had already grown through the colon wall and then had progressed to the more lethal stage IV. This progression meant that it had spread beyond Boseman's colon. Studies state that the exact cause of colorectal cancer is not known but factors which are considered as the risk of developing colon cancer are the individual's diet, smoking of tobacco and consumption of heavy alcohol. Besides these factors, it has been identified that development of colorectal cancer is furthermore related with certain hereditary syndromes associated to cancer or a family history. The typical symptoms of colorectal cancer are changes in bowel habits, such as diarrhoea, constipation, or narrowing of the stool, that lasts for more than a few days. There is also the constant feeling of bowel movement that is not relieved by doing so and rectal bleeding. There will be presence of blood in the stool or stools will be dark in colour [1]. The patient would suffer from cramps or abdominal pain. The unintended weight loss would be followed by weakness and fatigue. In this case study, all these symptoms were not present except for the unintended weight loss and the patient, who assumed he could be having the same condition as the Black Panther star, come in for treatment.

2. Case Report

The patient in this case study was a 36 year old male, who presented with complaints of loss of weight despite good appetite. His unintentional weight loss was about 25kg in 4 months. The patient denied vomiting or having altered

bowel habit. There was no yellowish discoloration of skin or shortness of breath. The patient did not have any abdominal pain, fever or any urinary symptoms. He had normal bowel habit with no history of passing out melanic stool.

He has no significant family history of malignancy. He smokes 5 to 6 sticks per day, and consumes alcohol occasionally. As a fan of Black Panther's lead actor, Chadwick Boseman, the patient took notice of his symptoms only when he came across the news of the actor's death. He presented to our clinic and after our preliminary physical examination, which was unremarkable, an US of the abdomen, along with an elective EGDS was arranged for him.

Full blood count, liver function tests, renal profile, serum electrolytes was obtained and were well within the normal range. Tumour markers of CEA, Ca 19-9 and AFP was taken, that showed no elevation in their value. OGDS revealed a mass at approximately 25cm from incisura, measuring around 1cm in length, with slight mucosal elevation. No obvious mucosal changes were observed during OGDS. Biopsy was taken and histopathology examination was reported as aggregates of epithelioid histiocytes forming non-caseating granulomas which can be likely a chronic granulomatous infection. The test advised to rule out TB as Tuberculin and Mantoux test was done which came back negative for TB.

3. Discussion

Patient was then subjected for a MRI of abdomen and pelvis, which showed gross diffused heterogenous liver with lobulated masses, showing delayed Primovist enhancement, splenomegaly, extensive para-aortic lymphadenopathy, with lung base nodules and bony deposits. The presence of liver cirrhosis and splenomegaly (14.1cm), with 2 ill-defined hypochoic lesions measuring 1.1 x 1.7 cm and 1.1 x 1 cm

Volume 10 Issue 1, January 2021

www.ijsr.net

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

respectively was reported after the the US abdomen. A CT Thorax was performed showing extensive mediastinal nodes, with largest measuring around 4 cm. Subsequently a CT guided biopsy was performed , samples were taken and were sent for HPE , AFB stain , AFB C&S , PCR for TB, fungal stain and C&S.HPE showed similar findings as the biopsy obtained during EGDS, aggregates of epithelioid histiocytes forming non-caseating granulomas. All other samples were negative of TB. Patient was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis based on clinical, radiological and HPE findings.

4. Conclusion

Sarcoidosis is a multisystem disorder due to unknown reason [2]. Sarcoidosis is known to affects adults who are young and middle-aged which is presented with bilateral hilar lymphadenopathy, pulmonary infiltration, ocular and skin lesions involving other organs too [2]. To identify sarcoidosis in a patient, the signs and symptoms depends on which organs are affected. The development of sarcoidosis is gradual which produces symptoms that last for years. In some cases, the signs and symptoms could appear suddenly and as quickly as it appears, it fades. Sarcoidosis patients sometimes show no symptoms, but the disease may be discovered only when an X-ray is done for another reason [3], [4], and [5]. As the signs and symptoms for Sarcoidosis are similar to colorectal cancer such as weight loss and fatigue , the patient assumption that he was going through what the Black Panther was suffering from. The self-awareness of the patient of his own illness helped him to seek treatment immediately. The patient is currently undergoing treatment during the time of reporting.

References

- [1] Norrelund N, Norrelund H. Colorectal cancer and polyps in patients aged 40 years and over who consult a GP with rectal bleeding. *Fam Pract* 1996; 13(2): 160–165.
- [2] Yamamoto M, Sharma OP, Hosoda Y. Special report: The 1991 descriptive definition of sarcoidosis. *Sarcoidosis* 1992; 9: Suppl. 1, 33–34
- [3] Marc A. Judson, The Diagnosis of Sarcoidosis, *Clinics in Chest Medicine*, Volume 29, Issue 3, 2008, 415-427,
- [4] Berlin M, Fogdell-Hahn A, Olerup O, Eklund A, Grunewald J. HLA-DR predicts the prognosis in Scandinavian patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 1997; 156: 1601–1605
- [5] Newman LS, Rose CS, Maier LA. Medical progress - Sarcoidosis. *N Eng J Med* 1997; 336(17):1224-1234.

Author Profile

Dr Vishnu Vinodhan Rajakumar, Surgical Based, Department of Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sabah.