Acute DiGuglielmo's Syndrome in a 2 Month Old Boy - A Very Rare Case Report

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Abstract: Acute erythroid leukemia (AEL) was first described by coppelli in 1912 as eritromatosis in a patient with hepatosplenomegaly, foci of erythroblast in liver, spleen, lymph node and bone marrow. Giovanni DiGuglielmo’s first described Erythroleukemia in the 20th century and the disorder is often still referred to as Acute DiGuglielmo’s syndrome. It is classified as Acute Myeloid leukemia (AML) M6 in FAB Classification system. It includes 2 subtypes AML M6a (erythroid/ myeloid ) Leukemia and rare Subtype AML M6b ( Pure Erythroid Leukemia). Erythroleukemia comprises 1% of all AML cases. It usually occurs in adult Males. A 2 month old boy presented with hepatosplenomegaly, Ascitis and fever. Preliminary investigation shows bicytopenia elevated liver enzymes and increased serum ferritin. Periperal smear Shows Leucoerythroblastic picture. Bone marrow aspirate shows 85% of cells comprising predominantly of Erythroblasts with few proerythroblasts. Mild dyserythropoiesis and Pawn bowl Megakaryocytes noted. Diagnosis - ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA - M6b. Immunophenotyping by flow cytometry shows about 35% of cells are blasts positive for CD 11, 33, 4, 7, 71, 38, glycophorine, CD 11. Acute erythroleukemia is a rare form of AML accounts for less than 5% of all AML. AML M6b also known as acute pure erythroid leukemia is a very rare entity especially in 2 month old. Due to its rarity the frequency and incidence cannot be determined exactly. In this case 85% Erythroblasts were noted favouring a diagnosis of pure Erythroid leukemia which is very rare in this age group. AML M6 is a rare entity and its subtype M6B in 2 months old is rarest of rare case. The very rare nature of this subtype and dismal prognosis merits its reporting.

Keywords: Myelodysplastic syndrome, Acute Erythroid leukemia, Pure erythroid leukemia, AML-M6, Leucoerythroblasts.

1. Introduction

Acute erythroid leukemia ( AEL ) was first described by coppelli in 1912 as eritromatosis in a patient with hepatosplenomegaly, foci of erythroblast in liver, spleen, lymph node and bone marrow. In 1917 Giovanni DiGuglielmo’s published first scientific significant original observation on Erythroleukemia.In 1923 he published first case of pure erythroid leukemia ( Eritremia Acuta ) . PEL is characterised by neoplastic erythroid proliferation and maturation arrest. In 1958 Dameshek described the equivalent to erythroid/myeloid leukemia as an evolution from erythemic proliferation through erytholeukemia to myeloblastic leukemia and he named it DiGuglielmo’s Syndrome . Giovanni Di Guglielmo’s first described Erythroleukemia in the 20th century and the disorder is often still referred to as Acute Di Guglielmo’s syndrome. It is classified as Acute Myeloid leukemia ( AML ) M6 in FAB Classification system. It includes 2 subtypes AML M6a ( erythroid/ Myeloid ) Leukemia and rare Subtype AML M6b ( Pure Erythroid Leukemia). Erythroleukemia comprises 1% of all AML cases. It usually occurs in adult Males.

2. Case History

A 2 month old boy presented with hepatosplenomegaly, Ascitis and fever. Preliminary investigation shows bicytopenia elevated liver enzymes and increased serum ferritin levels. Family history shows Patient’s brother and paternal brother were diagnosed with hemagocytic syndrome. A provisional clinical diagnosis of hemagocytic syndrome/ leukemia was made.

Laboratory investigations

WBC- 15.79 (10³/ul) RBC- 2.16(10³/uL) HGB- 5.6 g/dl HCT- 17.9%, MCV-82.9(ﬂ) MCH- 25.9pg MCHC-33 (g/dl) PLT - 25(10³/ul) RDW-CV- 19(%) 

Manual differential:
BLAST-03% Neutro-29% Band foms -- 05% Meta-3% Myelo-2% monocytes- 07% Reactive + atypical lymphocytes- 10%

Peripheral smear shows Polychromasia, few fragmented RBCs , Basophilic stippling, Few NRBC (5-6/100WBC) , Retic Count - 5.2% WBC - shows 3% blasts + 10% atypical lymphocytes and PLT - Reduced 
The peripheral blood smear was reported as Leukoerythroblastic Reaction

Bone marrow aspirate from left tibia is partially diluted with blood and shows 85 % of cells comprising predominantly of Erythroblasts with few proerythroblasts and early basophilic normoblasts. The Erythroblasts are large with moderate amount of bluish cytoplasm , multiple prominent nucleoli and many shows cytoplasmic buddings. Mild dyserythropoiesis with few binucleated and multinucleated erythroid cells noted.

MYELOID Series is severely reduced. Few Megakaryocytes shows multiple separate nuclei lobes ( pawn bowl ) megakaryocytes. Diagnosis: ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA - M6

Flow cytometry: Immunophenotyping by flow cytometry is
consistent with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML M6). Markers performed – CD 2, 3,4,5, 7,8,10, 11c, 11b, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 56, 38, 34, 71, 41, 61, tDT, MPO, glycophrine, kappa , lambda and CD 117. Immunophenotyping by flow cytometry shows about 35% of cells are blasts positive for CD 117, 33, 4, 7, 71, 38, glycophorine, CD 117.

Coagulation profiles
PT= 31.5 sec and aPTT= 48.

Serum biochemistry result
RBS – 3 mmol/l ( 4 to 7 mmol/l)
NA- 144.9 mmol/L (139-146) K- 3.97 mmol/L (4 - 5.5 )
CL – 112 mmol/L (98 – 107)
BUN – 4.82 mmol/L (1.8 – 6.4 )
Sr creatinine - 56.4umol/l (18- 35 ) uric acid- 341umol/L (120 – 320 )
AST - 928 U/L (15- 60 ) bilirubin total - 29.4umol/l ( 0- 17 )
Direct bilirubin 14.4 umol/L (0- 5)
ALP –131 U/L (50 – 350)
Ca – 1.97 mmol/L ( 2.2 – 2.7)
Cholestrol – 1.3 mmol/L ( 2.9 – 5.2 ) Triglycerides – 0.58 mmol/L ( 3.1 - 1.8 ) 
Total proteins and albumin were low

3. Discussion

Acute erythroid leukemia ( AEL ) was first described by coppelli in 1912 as eritromatosis in a patient with hepatosplenomegaly, foci of erythroblast in liver, spleen, lymph node and bone marrow. In 1917 Giovanni Di Guglielmo’s published first scientific significant original observation on Erythroleukemia. In 1923 he published first case of pure erythroid leukemia ( Eritremia Acuta) PEL is characterised by neoplastic erythroid proliferation and maturation arrest.

In 1958 Dameshek described the equivallent to erythroid/myeloid leukemia as an evolution from erthyemic proliferation through erytholeukemia to myeloblastic leukemia and he named it Di Guglielmo’s Syndrome

In 1976 FAB classified AEL or AML M6 but doesnot take into account acute erythroid leukemia. According to WHO classification AEL ( 2008) it falls into AML NOS type. It further divided into Acute erythroid leukemia( erythroid/myeloid) AML M6a and Pure erythroid leukemia AML M6b. It depends upon erythroblast and myeloblast count.

Table
AEL, Classifications comparisons changes
Classification year subtype B,M Findings Dyserythropoiesis Erythroid pr. Blast % of NEP
FAB 1976 AML-M6 > 30 % NA > 10 %
1985 AML- M6 >50 % > 30 % Prominent
WHO 2001 Erythroid/myeloid > 50 % > 20 % Prominent 
Pure Erythroid > 80 % Prominent

WHO 2008 Erythroid/myeloid > 50 % > 20 % Prominent
Dysplasia
Pure Erythroid > 80 % Prominent < 50%)

Dyserythropoiesis is prominent in FAB and WHO Classification. In WHO 2008 Classification dysplasia in < 50% of less than 2 cell lines and AML MRC are excluded

Acute erythroleukemia is a rare form of AML accounts for less than 5% of all AML. AML M6b (acute pure erythroid leukemia) is a very rare entity especially in 2 month old. Due to its rarity the frequency and incidence cannot be determined exactly.

The Age range of survival is 1 – 7 months

It is a disease of adulthood accounting for 90 % of all acute leukemia of the adult AML M6 is common in older with mean age of diagnosis of 50 years.

In this case patient presented with hepatosplenomegaly, fever ascites with anaemia and thrombocytopenia with 3 % Blasts and few atypical cells in peripheral blood smear.

B. M Findings are:

WHO( 2008 ) defined AML M6 as
Acute erythroleukemia (M6a) = Erythroid precursors > 50% and > 20% of NEC as myeloblasts
Pure Erythroid leukemia ( M6b) = > 80 % of Erythroid precursors Dyserthryopoiensis being prominent

Bone marrow aspirate from left tibia is partially diluted with blood and shows 85 % of cells comprising predominantly of Erythroblasts with few proerythroblasts and early basophilic normoblasts. The Erythroblasts are large with moderate amount of bluish cytoplasm , multiple prominent nucleoli and many shows cytoplasmic buddings. Mild dyserythropoieses with few binucleated and multinucleated erythroid cells noted. MYELOID Series is severely reduced. Few Megakaryocyte shows multiple separate nuclei lobes ( pawn bowl ) megakaryocytes

The Differential diagnosis includes

MDS ( RAEB) = < 20 % Blasts , Dyserythropoiesis
AML – MRC = > 20 % Blasts and > 50 % dysplastic cells , cytogenetic abnormalities and prior history of MDS
-AML - history of cytotoxic drugs and radiation
AML – NOS = < 50 % Erythroid cells, Immunohistochemistry
AML with recurrent genetic abnormalities - genetic / molecular abnormalities

The patient also had elevated uric acid , creatinine levels and BUN. In AEL, hepatosplenomegaly accounts for 25 % of all cases and lymphadenopathy is very rare. Hyperurecemia is the most common biochemical abnormality associated with AML due to increased turnover of leukemic cells.

In this case the patient’s serum calcium, albumin, total protein, magnesium all are low. Hypocalcemia is due to impaired release of PTH hormone.
Other biochemical abnormalities noted in this case is low cholesterol levels and serum glucose levels which is due to utilisation of these substances by tumor cells.

4. Conclusion

AML M6 is a rare entity and its subtype M6B in 2 months old is rarest of rare case. The very rare nature of this subtype and dismal prognosis merits its reporting.

Figure 1: BM HP (100 X 10) - SHOWING TRINUCLEATED ERYTHROBLASTS WITH PROMINENT NUCLEOLI

Figure 2: BM: HP(100X10)- ERYTHROBLASTS WITH PROMINENT NUCLEOLI

Figure 3: BM: HP(100X10)- ERYTHROBLASTS WITH CYTOPLASMIC FRAGMENTS

Figure 4: BM: HP (40 X 10) - MILD DYSERYTHROPOISES

Figure 5: BM: HP(100X10)-MEGAKARYOCYTES SHOWING MULTIPLE SEPERATE NUCLEI (PAWN BALL)

Figure 6: BM: LP (10X10) - ERYTHROBLASTS
Figure 7: BM HP (100 X 10) - SHOWING BINUCLEATED ERYTHROBLASTS

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References