Solitary Plasmacytoma Of Bone In A Developing Community

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Submission: May 03, 2017; Published: May 09, 2017

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Abstract
The plasmacytoma is a bone tumor characterized by its being more or less like plasma cells. A recent case report concerned solitary plasmacytoma of the base of the skull in the right temporal bone in India. Therefore, the author presents cases observed among the Ibo ethnic group in Nigeria. The single example of appeal to the traditional bone setter with reference to the total 11 cases may well indicate their level of use in the community.

Keywords: Plasma Cells; Plasmacytoma; Solitary; Bone; Ibo Ethnic Group; Histopathology; Data Pool; Epidemiology

Introduction
In his massive book on histological appearances of tumors, Winston Evans [1] stated that it “is characterized by the formation of tumours composed of cells that more or less resemble plasma cells.” A 2017 example of it from India concerned a solitary form at the base of the skull in the right temporal bone in a 50-year-old female [2]. Therefore, the present study from Nigeria deals with patients of the Ibo ethnic group [3]. The study follows the suggestion of a Birmingham (UK) group to the effect that a histopathology data pool facilitates epidemiological analysis [4]. Accordingly, such a pool established by the Government of the Eastern Region at the Capital city, Enugu, and manned by the author from 1970 has provided the necessary data.

Investigation
Doctors working in several hospitals in the Region were encouraged to send biopsy specimens complete with Request Forms which contain the necessary data as tabulated below.

Results
Table 1: Details of solitary plasmacytoma of bone in a developing community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Bone</th>
<th>Complaint</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Clavicle</td>
<td>Lump</td>
<td>2 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Femur</td>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>Fragments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>OB</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Femur</td>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>Fragments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Tibia</td>
<td>Swelling</td>
<td>Fragments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>AC</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Femur</td>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>Fragments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>EI</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Femur</td>
<td>Swelling</td>
<td>Fragments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Clavicle</td>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>Need biopsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Tibia</td>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>Fragments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>EF</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ilium</td>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>2 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>IP</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Tibia</td>
<td>Swelling</td>
<td>3 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Femur</td>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>Fragments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These are tabulated hereunder (Table 1). The ages ranged from 19 years to 75 years (average 47 years). This compares well with the already cited Indian figure of 50 years. Males preponderated and the femur also. So did fractures as well as the fragments submitted.

**Discussion**

Another Indian report differed by the growth starting in the humerus and progressing to the tibia [5]. Apparently, none of the present series progressed beyond the initial position.

From other reports [6,7], it was stated that solitary plasmacytoma occurs mostly in the bones of the axial system, such as the vertebra and the skull. This did not apply in this community. According to an American series [8], some patients are asymptomatic and are only diagnosed during radiologic examination for another condition. This was not true here.

In a Greek presentation [9], the diagnosis was based on the exclusion of systemic myeloma. This examination was not carried out here.

A peculiar aspect in this developing community is the appeal made by patients to bone setters first [10-12]. Indeed, only the sixth patient in this series sought such succour. That single example of appeal to the traditional bone setter among the total 11 cases may well indicate the level of their use in the community.

**References**