Primary adrenalin sufficiency due to bilateral adrenal lymphoma

Insuficiencia suprarrenal primaria por linfoma adrenal bilateral

To the Editor:

A patient with adrenal insufficiency secondary to a bilateral primary adrenal lymphoma (PAL) is reported. A brief review of the literature on the most relevant clinical and pathological characteristics of this condition is also provided.

An 80-year-old female patient with a history of high blood pressure complained of constitutional symptoms, nausea, and vomiting during the previous four months. Supplementary tests performed revealed persistently elevated serum LDH levels (2,000 IU/L) and normal electrolyte levels. A CT scan of chest and abdomen (Fig. 1) showed masses in both adrenal glands. A study of the adrenal axis showed ACTH levels ranging from between 300 and 500 pg/mL (normal range, 10-50 pg/mL) and basal cortisol levels ranging from between 10 and 14 µg/dL (normal range, 3-18 µg/dL). Following glucocorticoid replacement therapy, laparotomy was performed, at which a biopsy could only be performed because both lesions were surgically non-resectable. Malignant tumors such as carcinoma of the breast and lung, gastrointestinal tract tumors, and malignant melanoma, in which the incidence of adrenal metastases, often bilateral, is high. Differential diagnosis should also include other con-

![Figure 1](image-url) CT of the chest and abdomen.
ditions such as primary adrenal carcinoma, pheochromocytoma, and some infectious conditions. PAL is the disease with the poorest prognosis among extranodal B-cell lymphomas. Ninety percent of reported patients die within one year of diagnosis despite treatment. The chemotherapy schemes routinely used with curative intent for the treatment of high-grade B lymphomas provide very poor results in PAL. Radiotherapy may improve local control of the disease, but its impact on the survival of these patients is unknown. Finally, glucocorticoid replacement therapy should be part of the treatment when some degree of adrenal insufficiency exists.

References


Ignacio Rasero Hernández, Rafael Hernández Lavado*, Pilar Rodríguez Ortega, Carlos Guzmán Carmona, José Díaz Pérez de Madrid

Sección de Endocrinología y Nutrición, Hospital Infantia Cristina, Badajoz, Spain

*Corresponding author.
E-mail address: hernandezlavado@eresmas.com (R. Hernández Lavado).