ABSTRACT

Molluscum Contagiosum (MC) is a common viral infection of skin caused by Double Stranded DNA virus that is Pox Virus group effecting mainly humans. It affects mainly school going children, adults and immuno suppressed individuals e.g., HIV infection, women with dialysis, oral contraceptives, HPV infection, nutritional factors (poor nutrition). In children the most common site of infection of MC are skin of face, trunk and extremities where as, in Adults, genitals are commonly affected and rarely palms, sole and mucus membrane are also involved. The infection in genitals is lowest about 3%. In this context a case of incidentally diagnosed MC of cervix is presented here. The cervical infection of MC is very rare. Till date only two cases have been reported in the medical literature.
DNA core which represents the largest pathogenic pox virus in human and largest virus in nature. The Molluscum Contagiosum virus was first described by Sir Bateman in the year 1817 [2]. MC is of four types MCV I, MCV II, MCV III, MCV IV of which MCV I is most prevalent and MCV II is usually seen in adults. MC is common in children in ages 1-12 years, sexually active adults, immunosuppressed hosts such as those with HIV infection, concurrent dermatology conditions such as eczema or atopic dermatitis in women with dialysis, HPV infection and use of oral contraceptives or poor environment and poor nutritional factors [1]. MC Virus infection transmitted via either direct contact or with infected people or indirectly through infected fomites like towel, sponges, swimming pools and tattoo instruments. It also spreads via sexual contact or by auto inoculation. The incubation period of MC virus varies from 2-8 weeks and some extend up to 6-18 months. In children MC lesion frequently involve skin of face, neck, wrist, arms, hands and mucus membrane of lips, tongue and buccal mucosa. In sexually active adults and those with immune suppressive states the lesion involves genitals, abdomen and other inner part of thigh. The lesions are usually self-limiting whereas immuno suppressed persons suffering from extensive disease process with disfigurement. The incident of MC virus is 2-10% in world population. Occurrence of MC Virus in genital area is lowest approximately 3 % [3].

Molluscum Contagiosum of the cervix is very rare probably till date two cases have been reported in English scientific literature [3,4]. This case was an incidentally diagnosed case. The risk factors are probably poor environment with poor economic status and poor nutrition, post-menopausal bleeding probably with low immunity. Clinically the lesion of Molluscum Contagiosum appears as firm flesh coloured doughnut or umbilical shaped lesions ranges from 2-5 mm. Sometimes with eczematous lesion increases in size about 10 mm. It begins as a small painless papule or an erythematous base which is later on raise to a pearly white dome shaped nodule with a central depression like an umbilication characteristically referred to a mollusca. The central pit may contain waxy or cheesy material containing the virions [5]. In this present case the lesion present as firm nodule with reddish white discharge around. Diagnosis of lesion is presumptively based on distinct clinical appearance and histomorphological features on light microscopy which are very classical. Hence other molecular investigations are not done. Histological sections reveal a spectrum of cup shaped verrucous epidermal hyperplasia. The lesions contain numerous diagnostic eosinophilic or bluish purple Molluscum Bodies or Henderson Paterson Bodies which are spherical aggregates of viral particles in the cells of Stratum Granulosum and the Stratum Corneum. The hyperplastic epidermis shows acanthosis and basal layer shows enlarged basophilic nuclei and mitotic figures. The intra cytoplasmic inclusions were first described by Henderson Patterson in the year 1841 [6]. Usually dermis is relatively unremarkable but when the contents of the lesions are discharged into it, the dermis shows intense inflammatory cell reactions composed of neutrophil lymphocyte histiocytes, an occasional foreign body giant cell. Sometimes inflammatory reaction presents as an abscess and sometimes in the form of a pleomorphic T-Cell infiltrate that can simulate a lymphomas/leukemic process [4]. In our case the histomorphological features of the cervical biopsy specimens were classical.

Molluscum Contagiosum is a benign self-limiting process usually undergoes spontaneous resolution within months. Virus in the later stages is considered as a non-self by our body leading to activation of inflammatory process and causing spontaneous remission of this infection. But cases associated with HIV infection or atopic Dermatitis may have an extensive and severe course because of immune suppression [4]. Usually supportive treatment suffices and it is in the form of curettage, laser cryo-therapy using liquid nitrogen or application Salicylic Acid [4]. The infection may complicate ending in secondary infection or cellulitis. Healthy patient experience a good prognosis. The present case underwent biopsy but did not comply with follow up treatment.

CONCLUSION

Molluscum Contagiosum of Cervix is very rare. It can be only an incidental finding in a host with very poor economic status with poor environment and poor nutrition probably with low immunity.

REFERENCES

[1] Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of High-Consequence pathogens and Pathology (DHCPP). (https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dhcpp/index.html)


