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A CASE REPORT OF PARATHYROID ADENOMA AS A CAUSE FOR PATHOLOGICAL FRACTURE

MADAV PRAVEEN R^{1*}, RAGHURAM², AND BASKARAN PK³

1: Junior Resident, Department of General Surgery, Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital,
Chrompet, Chennai, India

2: Senior Resident, Department of General Surgery, Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital,
Chrompet, Chennai, India

3: Professor, Department of General Surgery, Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital,
Chrompet, Chennai, India

***Corresponding Author: Madav Praveen R: E Mail: madhavpraveen@gmail.com**

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ABSTRACT

Case primary hyperparathyroidism with pathological fracture of the shaft of the left femur, treated with parathyroidectomy, is reported. A female aged 40 presented with pathological fracture of the left femur and a swelling in the neck, just cephalic to the medial end of the clavicle. Investigation, showed elevated levels of serum parathormone, calcium and ALP. USH revealed a hetero echoic lesion corresponding to the neck and a swelling, suggestive of left inferior parathyroid adenoma. The lesion was removed. Patient improved postoperatively, is currently on follow-up.

**Keyword: Primary hyperparathyroidism, Pathological fracture, Parathyroid adenoma,
Parathyroidectomy**

INTRODUCTION

The various signs of hyperparathyroidism include renal stone disease, peptic ulcer, pathological fractures, acute pancreatitis and psychological manifestations.

TREATMENT

A patient of primary hyperparathyroidism presenting with a pathological fracture of the left femur is reported here.

CASE REPORT

A 40 year old female patient presented to the out-patient department with history of accidental fall at workplace followed by

deformity of the left lower limb. She was not able to stand on her feet or walk. She was found to have a fracture of the left femur (**Figure 1**).

On examination, patient bed-ridden with a small swelling, measuring 5 cm x 3 cm in the root of the neck on the left side, just cephalad to the medial end of the clavicle (**Figure 2**).



Figure 1: Pathological fracture - shaft of left femur



Figure 2: Swelling at the root of the neck on the left side the left lower limb extending from the thigh to the foot

Pre-operative levels of parathormone, calcium and alkaline phosphatase was assessed. Serum parathormone was 1280pg/ml (normal range 15-65), calcium was 12.2 mg/dl (normal range 8.0 –10.0) and alkaline phosphatase was 800 IU/ml (normal range 48 – 406). Ultrasonogram of the neck revealed a heteroechoic lesion, measuring 3cm x 2 cm x 2.5 cm in the left para-tracheal region, lateral to esophagus, posterior to

lower pole of the left lobe of the thyroid (**Figure 3**).

TREATMENT

Patient was planned for parathyroidectomy. In the procedure it showed enlarged parathyroid was anterior to the recurrent laryngeal nerve, suggesting that it is the left inferior parathyroid gland. The enlarged gland was removed (**Figure 4**).



Figure 3: Parathyroid adenoma removed out of the wound



Figure 4: gross specimen

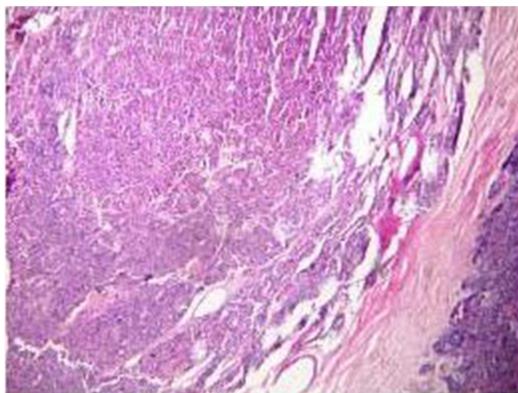


Figure 5: Parathyroid adenoma HPE

Histopathological examination confirmed the diagnosis of parathyroid adenoma, from the compressed normal parathyroid tissue surrounding the neoplasm (Figure 5). In the post-operative period, the serum levels of calcium dropped to 8.6 mg/dl on the first post-operative day, dropping further to 7.0 mg/dl on the second post-operative day. Hypocalcemia was treated with intravenous calcium infusion for 3 days, followed by oral calcium and vitamin D3 supplements. At present, oral calcium and vitamin D3 supplementation is given.

DISCUSSION

Primary hyperparathyroidism is of three types – type 1, pathological fractures and bone disease; type 2, renal stones and pancreatic calculi and type 3, asymptomatic with biochemical evidence of hyperparathyroidism, presentation with combination of more than one type is not infrequent [1].

This patient had type 1 hyperparathyroidism, with multiple pathological fractures. Biochemical evidence of hyperparathyroidism was present in the patient. A palpable nodule in the left side of the neck was present. Ultra sonogram of the neck revealed mixed echogenic lesion in the proximity of the left lower pole of thyroid, which was suggestive of the diagnosis suspected [2]. Sestamibi scan is gold standard for localization of hyper-functioning parathyroid. However, ultrasonogram of the neck also shows anatomical localization of the parathyroid tumor as was evident in this case. In this patient, focused parathyroidectomy was performed, with excision of the enlarged inferior parathyroid gland, without exploring the other parathyroids.

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