

Pleural Effusion As an Initial Sign of Multiple Myeloma:A Case Report and Review of Literature

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Area and Category(at submission):

[WCBE: 10. Others] 1. Malignant tumor / 9. Case report

Presentation Preference: Either

Case Report: YES

Objective:Discuss and improve the understanding of the clinical characters and diagnostic methods of myelomatous pleurisy, particularly of the patients with pleural effusion as an initial manifestation.

Background:A 53 year-old male, who had been misdiagnosed as tuberculous pleurisy in a local hospital, was diagnosed as multiple myeloma with pleural infiltration. We reviewed the literature on clinical manifestations, serum and pleural effusion characters, treatment and diagnostic options of this exceptionally rare presentation of multiple myeloma.

Methods:We conducted a search of the published medical literature since 2000 in MEDLINE and PubMed using search criteria ("pleural effusion" AND "multiple myeloma") OR "myelomatous pleural effusions". The search led to 64 case reports, and 16 cases with pleural effusion as an initial manifestation were included in this review. We have also searched for recent advances in diagnosis.

Results and Conclusions:Myelomatous pleurisy is a rare complication of multiple myeloma and its clinical presentations and experimental results are non-specific. Therefore, to make definite diagnosis has been mainly relied on histopathology of pleura biopsy tissues or pleural effusions. Pleural biopsy under thoracoscope is not only a reliable but also a safe and effective method. So far the treatments of this kind of multiple myeloma are mainly chemotherapy. But the response rate was relatively low with the overall medium survival time of 4 months.