

A Rare Case of Synchronous Colon Adenocarcinoma

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Abstract : Introduction: Synchronous tumor is defined as the presence of more than one primary malignant lesion in the same patient at the indexed diagnosis. It is a rare occurrence, especially in the spectrum of colorectal cancer, which accounts for less than 4%. The underlying pathology of a synchronous tumor is thought to be due to a genomic factor, which is microsatellite instability (MIS) with the involvement of BRAF, KRAS, and the GSRM1 gene. There are no specific sites of occurrence for the synchronous colorectal tumor, but many studies have shown that a synchronous tumor has about 43% predominance in the ascending colon with rarity in the sigmoid colon. Case Report: We reported a case of a young lady in the middle of her 30's with no family history of colorectal cancer that was diagnosed with a synchronous adenocarcinoma at the descending colon and rectosigmoid region. The lady's presentation was quite perplexing as she presented to the district hospital initially with simple, uncomplicated hemorrhoids and constipation. She was then referred to our center for further management as she developed a 'football' sized right gluteal swelling with a complete intestinal obstruction and bilateral lower-limb paralysis. We performed a CT scan and biopsy of the lesion, which found that the tumor engulfed the sacrococcygeal region with more than one primary lesion in the colon as well as secondaries in the liver. The patient was operated on after a multidisciplinary meeting was held. Pelvic exenteration with tumor debulking and anterior resection were performed. Postoperatively, she was referred to the oncology team for chemotherapy. She had a tremendous recovery in eight months' time with a partial regain of her lower limb power. The patient is still under our follow-up with an improved quality of life post-intervention. Discussion: Synchronous colon cancer is rare, with an incidence of 2.4% to 12.4%. It has male predominance and is pathologically more advanced compared to a single colon lesion. Down staging the disease by means of chemoradiotherapy has shown to be effective in managing this tumor. It is seen commonly on the right colon, but in our case, we found it on the left colon and the rectosigmoid. Conclusion: Managing a synchronous colon tumor could be challenging to surgeons, especially in deciding the extent of resection and postoperative functional outcomes of the bowel; thus, individual treatment strategies are needed to tackle this pathology.

Keywords : synchronous, colon, tumor, adenocarcinoma

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