

Metastatic Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma in Pleural Effusion- A Very Rare Case

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Abstract : Papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) accounts for the most common type of thyroid cancer, a well-differentiated type. PTC is featured by biologically low-grade and less aggressive tumors with a survival rate of 10 years in most of the diagnosed cases. PTC can be presented with the involvement of cervical lymph nodes in about 50% of the patients, yet the distant spread is very uncommon. Herein, we discussed an early 50-year-old male patient with a history of PTC that presented to the emergency department complaining of shortness of breath and a radiological finding of hydrothorax. Cytologic examination, together with immune-histochemical staining and molecular studies of pleural effusion aspiration, concluded the definitive diagnosis of metastatic papillary thyroid carcinoma in the pleural space. PTC seldom causes metastatic niches in the pleural space, and this is a rare clinical presentation; nevertheless, a differential diagnosis of thyroid metastasis needs to be excluded.

Keywords : thyroid cancer, malignant pleural effusion, cytology aspiration, papillary thyroid carcinoma

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