Autoimmune Pancreatitis: A Report from India

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ABSTRACT

Context Autoimmune pancreatitis (AIP) is characterized by immune-mediated inflammation, prominent lymphocytic infiltration and fibrosis of pancreas. It accounts for 4.6-6% of chronic pancreatitis but there are only a few reported cases from India. Objective Evaluation of cases of AIP diagnosed between July 2006 and June 2009. Design Retrospective analysis of clinical record of all patients diagnosed as AIP between July 2006 to June 2009. Setting Tertiary care centre, north India. Main outcome measure Clinical records of all patients with AIP were analyzed with respect to their initial diagnosis and treatment, imaging, cytology, serology, presence of other organ involvement and response to treatment. Results The 5 cases of AIP included 4 men and a woman with age range of 48-60 years. They interval between initial consultation to diagnosis ranged from 3 months to 7 years. Symptoms included obstructive jaundice (5/5), abdominal pain (3/5), and weight loss (3/5). In 3 cases a presumptive diagnosis of pancreatic mass with biliary stricture was made and in one patient diagnosis of primary sclerosing cholangitis was considered. These four patients had received a biliary stent and it was only on follow up and review of the repeat CT scan, that a diagnosis of AIP was suggested. In one patient, a diagnosis of AIP was considered in the first instance. Radiologically, all 5 patients showed a bulky pancreas with loss of lobulations. Conclusion In this report from India we highlight the need for a high index of suspicion in diagnosing AIP because it responds dramatically to steroids.