SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

ORAL MANIFESTATION OF ADULT T-CELL LEUKEMIA/LYMPHOMA

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Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATLL) is a malignant lymphoproliferative disorder caused by human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1). On the clinical features and the laboratory findings of patients, ATLL is divided into four subtypes: acute, lymphoma, chronic, and smoldering type. ATLL commonly involves skin to vary in almost half of patients.
A 58-year-old Japanese man, first presented at our department in 2010 with multiple ulcerated tumors of the upper and lower extremities. A skin biopsy was taken from a lesion in his left knee. The biopsy specimen revealed ulcerative change with crust formation on the surface, hyperkeratosis, and irregular acanthosis, accompanied with by moderate chronic inflammatory infiltrate in the dermis and subcutaneous tissue. Some infiltrating lymphocytes had mild atypia with somewhat irregularly-shaped nuclei. Immunohistochemical staining of a skin biopsy specimen showed that most of the infiltrating atypical lymphocytes were positive for CD3, and CD4. The laboratory findings were as follows: white blood cells 17.5×109/L (lymphocytes 50.0 %); LDH, 237 IU/l (normal 119–229 IU/l); calcium, 9.4 mg/dl (normal 8.7–10.3 mg/dl); soluble interleukin-2 receptor, 1,160 U/ml (normal 145–519 U/ml). Serological examination was positive for anti-HTLV-I antibody. Monoclonal integration of HTLV-I proviral DNA was confirmed by Southern blot analysis in whole blood. The diagnosis was chronic-type ATLL. The patient was followed up with a watchful waiting strategy.
The patient reported that oral lesion had rapidly increased in size since he first noticed it. Intraoral examination revealed ulcerated tumors involving on the dorsum of the tongue, covered by a fibrinous necrotic tissue. An incisional biopsy was performed on the tongue lesion. Histopathological and immunohistochemical findings revealed infiltration of ATLL cells. Oral manifestations of ATLL are extremely rare and only a few cases with oral involvement have been reported.