Priapism as an Initial Manifestation of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia: A Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Priapism is defined as an abnormal, persistent, usually painful, erection of the penis. It is an involuntary, prolonged erection unrelated to sexual stimulation or desire and unrelieved by ejaculation. As with many medical emergencies, the saying "time is tissue" holds true for priapism. This condition is a true urological emergency and early intervention allows the best chance for functional recovery. If left untreated, it may lead to permanent erectile dysfunction and penile necrosis.1 Priapism is frequently idiopathic in etiology, but it is associated with a number of important medical conditions and pharmacologic agents.2,3 Hyperviscosity resulting from leukemia is a rare cause of low-flow priapism. It is most frequently seen in patients with chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) due to the high number of leukocytes in these patients.4,5 Herein, we report a case of a 24-year-old male with priapism as an initial manifestation of CML with very high leukocytes count of 387,800/mm3 and 29% blast cells. This case illustrates the importance of emergency physicians in the diagnosis and management of patients with persistent priapism unrelated to sexual stimulation or desire.

Keywords: chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), leukocytosis, leukostasis, priapism

INTRODUCTION

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CASE REPORT

A 24-year-old male had congenital ventricular septal defect and received surgical repair 5 years ago. He had experienced several episodes of swelling of the penis in...