

Neoplasm in the Elderly

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The increase in life expectancy is accompanied by an increase in the average age of the world. The geriatric population is an increasingly important part of our population. Cancer pathology is particularly common in the geriatric population. The modalities of discovery of neoplastic pathologies are diverse. Our work aimed to study the circumstances of cancer discovery in the elderly.

Methods: A retrospective, monocentric study of patients aged over 60 years hospitalized in the department of internal medicine for a neoplastic pathology.

Results: The study involved 23 patients. The average age was 70.8 years old. The sex ratio was 1.5 (16M/7F). The causes for hospitalization were deterioration of the general status in 11 cases, bone pain in 1 case, a thromboembolic event in 3 cases (2 cases of venous thrombosis of the lower limbs and 1 case of pulmonary embolism), abdominal pain in 3 cases, anemia in 2 cases, hemiparesis and a decrease in visual acuity in 1 case each. The discovery of neoplasm was fortuitous for 1 patient hospitalized for urinary infection. He had a hepatocellular carcinoma. Twelve patients were smokers. Fever was observed in 4 cases. Asthenia, anorexia and weight loss were observed respectively in 23, 17 and 16 patients. Anemia was found in 23 cases (16 cases of normocytic anemia, 6 cases of microcytic anemia and 1 case of macrocytic anemia). A biological inflammatory syndrome was noted

in 22 patients and hypercalcemia in 9 patients. The solid neoplasia were: prostate cancer in 5 cases, lung cancer in 5 cases including small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma, pancreatic cancer in 3 cases, hepatocellular carcinoma in 2 cases, ovarian cancer in 2 cases, rectal cancer in 1 case, bladder cancer in 1 case, endometrial cancer in 1 case, cavum cancer in 1 case, brain astrocytoma in 1 case, breast cancer in 1 case. Tumor markers contributed to the diagnosis in 9 cases (1 case of neuroendocrine carcinoma, 2 cases of hepatocellular carcinoma, 1 case of pancreatic cancer and 5 cases of prostate cancer). The histological study allowed the diagnosis in half of the cases. Regarding the other patients, imaging, especially CT, offered a strong diagnostic suspicion. A curative treatment was proposed for 10 patients.

Conclusion : The geriatric population is the population most confronted with neoplastic pathologies. The circumstances of discovery are many and varied. Regarding the treatment, the indications are based on the metastatic nature of the neoplasms well as the physiological age of the patient.