

Gender: Male

Age: 59

MRN: 813351

Diagnosis: Cholangiocarcinoma

History and Physical:

Patient: Doctor, I've been having severe abdominal pain, extreme itching, difficulty sleeping, fatigue, and significant weight loss over the last three weeks.

Doctor: I understand. Can you tell me more about when the pain started?

Patient: It began suddenly three weeks ago. The pain has been constant, and there's nothing that seems to make it better or worse.

Doctor: Along with the pain, you mentioned extreme itching and difficulty sleeping. Is the itching all over your body?

Patient: Yes, it's been all over, and its making it hard to sleep.

Doctor: Its also affecting your energy levels, I see. You mentioned feeling fatigued and sleepy during the day?

Patient: Yes, I feel very tired all the time, and I struggle to stay awake during the day. I also lost 7 kgs in just two weeks.

Doctor: I see. Well need to investigate this further. Ill look at your lab results, starting with your viral markers. Your HCV and HBV tests from August 15th were negative, which is good. Youve had treatment with interferon and DAA in the past and have achieved a sustained virologic response.

Patient: Yes, that's right. But these symptoms are still bothering me.

Doctor: Well definitely look into this more. Let's review some other aspects. I'm noting that you've had jaundice for about a month, but no hematemesis, melena, or ascites. No blood transfusions either. Have you had any fevers or night sweats?

Patient: No, no fevers or night sweats.

Doctor: Your history of diabetes is also important to note, and I see that you've had no surgeries in the past. Are you taking any medications?

Patient: Yes, I'm on several medications. I take esomeprazole 40mg once a day, levijon three times a day, rifaximin once a day, ursodeoxycholic acid twice daily, ertugliflozin-sitagliptin twice a day, and phloroglunicol in case of pain.

Doctor: Okay, I'll make a note of all that. Now, your family history is significant. Your mother passed away from liver cancer, and your father from kidney-related issues. Your sister has diabetes.

Patient: Yes, that's right.

Doctor: Now, let's talk about the results of your recent investigations. The ultrasound from August 26th showed an enlarged fatty liver with grade I dilatation of the intrahepatic biliary duct. The CT scan from September 2nd revealed an ill-defined mass at the bifurcation of the common hepatic duct, which is causing moderate dilatation in the intrahepatic biliary ducts.

Patient: That doesn't sound good, Doctor.

Doctor: You're right. The CT scan from PKLI on September 11th showed a soft tissue mass at the confluence of the hepatic ducts, measuring about 2 x 1.5 cm. This mass is causing mild biliary dilatation and is affecting both the right hepatic artery and narrowing the left portal vein. There's no evidence of cirrhosis, but the biliary system is impacted.

Patient: I'm worried about what this could mean for me.

Doctor: I understand your concern. Based on these findings and your symptoms, I suspect you may have a Klatskin tumor. We'll need more detailed imaging and tests to confirm this, but this is a possibility.

Patient: What's the next step?

Doctor: We'll schedule a CT scan with the HCC protocol to assess the tumor's morphology and to help us decide on the best course of treatment. Surgery could be an option, but we'll need to gather more information first.

Patient: What are the risks of surgery?

Doctor: Surgery carries a 3-4% risk of mortality and a 10% risk of morbidity. However, the five-year survival rate for patients with this condition post-surgery is about 40%. It's important to weigh these risks, but surgery is a potential treatment.

Patient: I understand. What else do I need to do in the meantime?

Doctor: You'll need to continue with your current medications and focus on improving your physical

activity and controlling your blood sugar levels. We'll also schedule an ERCP to assess the bile duct further.

Patient: Okay, thank you for explaining all of this.

Doctor: You're welcome. We'll keep monitoring your condition closely. After the CT scan and further tests, we'll determine the next steps. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions in the meantime.

Patient: I will. Thank you, Doctor.

Follow-Up Visit (September 16, 2024)

Doctor: How have you been feeling since your last visit?

Patient: The pain is still there, and I'm still experiencing the itching and fatigue.

Doctor: We will continue monitoring these symptoms closely. Your lab results are showing an increase in your bilirubin levels, which could be indicative of worsening biliary obstruction. Your recent CT scan didn't show any major changes, but it confirmed the mass and its effects on the biliary system.

Patient: What's the next step?

Doctor: I will consult with the multidisciplinary team to discuss possible surgery options. We'll also perform an ERCP to evaluate the bile ducts more thoroughly. It's crucial we understand the extent of the biliary stricture.

Patient: Okay, Doctor. What about my other medications?

Doctor: Keep taking your current medications as prescribed. We might need to adjust them based on the results of further tests.

Patient: Thank you for your care.

Doctor: You're welcome. We'll proceed with the treatment plan and follow up with you after the ERCP and additional tests.

Follow-Up Visit (October 23, 2024)

Doctor: How have things been since your last visit?

Patient: My pedal edema has gotten worse in the last two weeks, and I've had some swelling in my legs.

Doctor: I see. Let's review your imaging and lab results. The ERCP you had on October 4th revealed a stricture in the bile duct, and we obtained a biopsy from it. The biopsy suggests cholangiocarcinoma, which is consistent with the initial diagnosis of a Klatskin tumor.

Patient: What does this mean for me?

Doctor: We'll need to discuss surgical options in more detail, particularly the left hepatectomy and bile duct excision. This will be followed by adjuvant chemotherapy. The surgery carries some risks, but it's important to proceed with the treatment.

Patient: I understand. What should I expect next?

Doctor: The multidisciplinary team will meet to finalize the treatment plan. We'll also continue monitoring your liver function through labs and imaging. Lets keep focused on improving your physical activity and managing your blood sugar.

Patient: Thank you, Doctor. I appreciate your guidance.

Doctor: Of course, were here for you every step of the way.