

Disseminated classic Kaposi's sarcoma associated with human herpesvirus 8 infection.

Case report

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SUMMARY

Authors report a case of disseminated form of classic Kaposi's sarcoma case, in which presence of DNA sequences of human herpesvirus 8 has been confirmed. Viral DNA was identified with nested PCR method in tissue samples of skin and tumor of left submandibular region. Detected sequences corresponded to amplicone of 160 base pairs. In accordance with previous literature reports, these results confirm the possible etiopathogenetic role of Human herpesvirus 8 in classic Kaposi's sarcoma development.

Introduction

Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) is a multicentric malignancy, which apart from skin can affect various internal organs. It became a significant medical and dermatovenereological problem after 1981 when its association with AIDS was observed. Previously quite rare, tumor was then noted in 35% of AIDS patients in USA (1). Moritz Kaposi described it for the first time in 1872 and named "idiopathic, multiple, pigmented sarcoma" (2). KS is characterized by proliferation of vascular endothelial and lymphoreticular cells; it is rather reactive than neoplastic. The disease is important due to possible multicentric involvement of internal organs that is a cause of death in most cases. On the basis of clinical and epidemiological features, four types of KS can be recognized: *classic, endemic (African), iatrogenic* and *epidemic* (AIDS related). Classic KS with the greatest frequency

occurs in Europe and North America, among the elderly male of Mediterranean or Eastern European descent (3).

Etiology and pathogenesis of KS is not clear yet. Recent findings of Human herpesvirus 8 (HHV-8) DNA sequences in tumor lesions and peripheral blood mononuclear cells of patients with all forms of KS, today shed a different light on the possible etiopathogenetic mechanism of the disease (4,5).

Case report

65 years old male patient was referred to the Clinic for Dermatovenereology of the Clinical Centre of Novi

KEY WORDS

Kaposi's sarcoma, human herpesvirus 8

