Lymphoma of the urinary bladder in a developing community

Abstract
Lymphoma of the bladder is rare. As far back as 1974, it was published that 2 cases were reported in 1885. Recent literature search revealed single cases of it. Therefore, we report a case from a developing community in Nigeria.

Keywords: urinary bladder, lymphoma, history, current cases, developing community

Introduction
In 1974, Aquilina and Bugeja reported a case of primary lymphoma of the urinary bladder and referred to a historical case of 1885.6 Recent single case reports have come from countries as far apart as Brazil.2–5 Therefore, a case among the Ibo ethnic group, which is domiciled in South Eastern Nigeria, is deemed to be worthy of documentation.

Case Report
OC, a 60-year-old man, attended the Enugu Specialist Hospital, Enugu, Nigeria, where he consulted the co-author, Dr Charles Attah, with the complaint of swelling of the right leg for 7 months. This was associated with frequency of urine. At surgery, there was a hard fixed growth at the left iliac region which involved the base of the urinary bladder. The biopsy consisted of a 2x1x1.0 cm greyish tissue. On microscopy, tumor cells were noted as discrete small masses of the lymphoid series without differentiation. Malignant lymphoma was diagnosed as elsewhere.4,10

Discussion
From India one case each of primary and secondary lymphoma of the bladder came to light.1,11 A review of the literature was carried out in the UK, the conclusion being that it “is diagnosed by its characteristic morphology and immunohistochemical characteristics” with the addition that “Radiotherapy is a useful treatment.” As to our local patient, owing to underdevelopment, follow-up was not possible.12 It is said that there is “female predominance” and that “most cases occur in middle-age women.” Incidentally, our 60-year-old patient is near to the 57-year-old Moroccan.4,12 Elsewhere, much younger ages were reported from Brazil and Korea.2,13 As for treatment, the lesions “were nearly completely regressed after two cycles of systemic cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine and prednisone (CHOP) chemotherapy.”14 The CHOP therapy was successful elsewhere.4 Adequate palliation with external beam radiotherapy occurred in USA and in UK.5,12 In this context, it is to the future that our developing community may look up.

Acknowledgments
None.

Conflicts of interest
The author declares that there are no conflicts of interest.

References