

# 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

Volume 6 Issue 5 - 2018

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**Received:** November 20, 2018 | **Published:** December 10, 2018

## Introduction

In 1974, Aquilina and Bugeja reported a case of primary lymphoma of the urinary bladder and referred to a historical case of 1885<sup>1</sup>. Recent single case reports have come from countries as far apart as Brazil.<sup>2-5</sup> Therefore, a case among the Ibo ethnic group,<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7-10</sup>

## Discussion

From India one case each of primary and secondary lymphoma of the bladder came to light.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>4,12</sup> Elsewhere, much younger ages were reported from Brazil and Korea.<sup>2,3</sup> As for treatment, the lesions “were nearly completely regressed after two cycles of systemic cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine and prednisone (CHOP) chemotherapy”.<sup>3</sup> The CHOP therapy was successful elsewhere.<sup>4</sup> Adequate palliation with external beam radiotherapy occurred in USA and in UK.<sup>5,12</sup> 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.

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