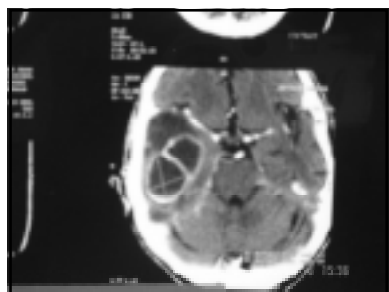


Carcinoma Esophagus with Brain Matastasis

Sir,

Esophageal cancer is an extremely rare source of brain metastasis. In an autopsy series brain metastasis were found in upto 5% of patients with carcinoma esophagus¹ and in a series of 916 patients of brain metastasis, 6% were from GIT but none of them were from esophagus.² We here report one such case.

Case: A 50 year old male, nonsmoker, nonalcoholic was diagnosed with carcinoma esophagus in June 1999. He was inoperable and was treated with concurrent Cisplatin chemotherapy and radiotherapy. He remained in complete remission till May 2002 when he developed multiple lung metastases. He was given palliative chemotherapy with Capecitabine and achieved good clinical



response and was on follow up. In January 2005 he presented with vertigo and headache. CT scan showed right temporo-parietal metastasis with mass effect (Fig 1). He was treated with whole brain radiation (WBRT) with symptomatic benefit.

COMMENTS

Brain metastasis is known in carcinoma esophagus, albeit rare.³ Metastasis to brain may occur via the vertebral venous plexus or via hematogenous spread. It has been seen that lung metastasis is usually rare in carcinoma esophagus with brain metastasis.⁴ The median survival of metastatic carcinoma esophagus is 10 months. Our case is interesting because of rarity of brain metastasis in carcinoma esophagus, presentation along with lung metastasis and the progression free survival of 33 months with metastatic disease.

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