Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia of the Liver: A Rare Cause of Elevated Liver Function Tests

Ricky Buckshaw DO
Anam Malik MD
Michal Kloska MD
Reema M. Vaze MD
She-Yan Wong MD

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INTRODUCTION
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) is a proliferative malignancy that can infiltrate multiple different organs throughout the human body. Even though CLL is one of the most common forms of leukemia in the adult population, it has been previously been reported to rarely affect the liver. Since the development of more advanced biologic and chemotherapy medications, patients are presenting with more rare presentations of common disease processes.1,2 Now that metastatic CLL is becoming more prevalent, we need to consider previously documented rare sites of metastasis as potential sites of disease.2,3

CASE PRESENTATION
A 76 year-old male with a past medical history of CLL (+13q14 mutation) and CKD was evaluated for elevated liver enzymes. He was found to have an AST of 112, ALT of 348, ferritin of 953 along with a transferrin saturation of 27%. During his extensive evaluation, a CT of his abdomen and pelvis revealed worsening intraabdominal lymphadenopathy. Additional imaging with an abdominal ultrasound revealed worsening hepatomegaly and splenomegaly. Additional causes of his findings were evaluated, however blood work showed a negative ANA/SMA/AMA, a negative HAV/HBV/HCV. Percutaneous liver biopsy was performed for further evaluation, which showed involvement of his liver with dense lymphoid infiltrate of the portal tracts, consistent with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). This liver biopsy was similar in nature to his previous bone marrow biopsy. The patient was initiated on Imbruvica and soon thereafter, his liver function tests improved. He continues to follow with Oncology for his CLL.

DISCUSSION
Though there are many different reasons why the liver is becoming more commonly affected, this rise in incidence shines a new light on chronic liver disease management. Even though liver infiltration with CLL has not been studied as much as other organ systems, this spike in disease incidence should make us all aware of these complications. Properly diagnosing this rare complication of CLL in a timely manner would allow our patients to have better outcomes as well as provide physicians a better clinical understanding of this disease process.2,3

REFERENCES