Interesting and Unusual lesions diagnosed on Breast Cytology - Be aware of the Rare

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INTRODUCTION

- Fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) is a rapid, safe and highly accurate method for initial evaluation of breast masses.
- Sometimes rare lesions are encountered on FNAC, which although benign or non neoplastic, are important to diagnose so as to provide appropriate management to the patients.
- Hereby, we are presenting 3 unusual cases seen on cytology to highlight the role of FNAC in diagnosing these rare breast lesions.

CASE SUMMARY

Case 1 (Crystallizing Galactoceole)
A 26 year lactating female presented with a 2x2 cm lump in upper inner quadrant of right breast. The swelling was firm, mobile, non tender clinically diagnosed as fibroadenoma. Aspiration yielded thick, chalky white material obstructing the needle. Based on the typical history and cytological picture, a diagnosis of Crystallizing Galactoceole was made.

Case 2 (Breast Filarisis)
A 25 year old female presented with multiple lumps in the left breast since one month associated with fever and episodic erythematos rash. On local examination, two small ill-defined lumps were noted in the lower & upper inner quadrants. FNAC revealed numerous microfilarial parasites in a mixed inflammatory background. Thus cytological diagnosis of Breast Filarisis was rendered. Patient was given Diethylcarbamazine (DEC) following which symptoms resolved within a week.

Case 3 (Tuberculous Mastitis)
A 35 year female presented with right breast mass with overlying skin edema and retraction suspicious of malignancy. However, FNAC revealed few epithelioid granulomas in a necrotic and inflammatory background. There was no evidence of malignancy. ZN stain was positive. Thus a diagnosis of tuberculosis of breast was given following which anti-tubercular treatment was started.

DISCUSSION

- Crystallizing galactoceole, a rare entity, can be confused with breast abscess and carcinoma. Till date only 6 cases of crystallizing galactoceole have been reported in literature. FNAC plays an important role in its diagnosis as well as treatment.
- Extracutaneous filarisis of breast is very rare especially its presentation with multiple swellings.2 FNAC can play an important role in the diagnosis resulting in avoidance of surgical procedure, especially in a young female as seen in our case.
- TB breast is extremely rare even in developing world and may masquerade as breast malignancy.3 In an endemic country like India even in AFB-negative FNAC smears a therapeutic trial of antitubercular drugs may be instituted.

CONCLUSION
FNAC is a safe, rapid and effective method for diagnosis and further planning of appropriate treatment of rare non neoplastic/inflammatory breast masses, obviating the need for surgery as was seen in all the above 3 cases.

REFERENCES

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