

An autopsy case of hemophagocytic syndrome following the combination therapies with immune checkpoint inhibitors to hepatocellular carcinoma. Ikarashi, T.

Brief report (NCH-autopsy #SN24-001).

An autopsy case of hemophagocytic syndrome following the combination therapies with immune checkpoint inhibitors to hepatocellular carcinoma

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key words and abbreviation:

CDDP: cisplatin,

CSS: cytokine storm syndrome

CTL α : cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein,

G-CSF: granulocyte-colony stimulating factor,

HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma,

HLH: hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis, (=HPS),

HPS: hemophagocytic syndrome, (=HLH),

ICI: immune checkpoint inhibitor,

irAE: immune-related adverse events,

MMT: molecular targeted therapy,

NCH: Nagaoka Central Hospital,

PDL1: programmed cell death 1 ligand 1,

PSL: prednisolone,

T α CE: transcatheter arterial chemo-embolism therapy,

TKI: tyrosine kinase inhibitor,

VEGFR: vascular endothelial growth factor receptor,

Abstract:

We have experienced one case of HCC accompanied by HPS (HLH) after ICI combination

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therapy. MTT with ICI consisted of anti-PDL1 (atezolizumab) with anti- VEGF (bevacizumab) and anti-PDL1 (durvalumab) with anti-CTLA-4 (tremelimumab).

Clinical history: ① – 1 year 10 months before autopsy: 70 y/o male was diagnosed as HCC, S6,7, tumor infiltration: hepatic vein, IVC, stage IIIB, and progressed with pulmonary metastasis in spite of the treatments with multi-TKI against VEGFR 2 and 3 (Lenvatinib) and TACE with CDDP. ② – 1 year 2 months: the first ICI combination therapy with anti-PDL1 (atezolizumab) and anti-VEGF (bevacizumab) followed by Lenvatinib was done, but failed to prevent the aggravation of pulmonary metastasis. ③ -7 months: the second ICI combination therapy with anti-PDL1 (durvalumab) and anti-CTLA-4 (tremelimumab) was performed, but failed in progressive disease with the neck node metastasis, treated by palliative neck radiation (30 Gy). ④ -2 months: pancytopenia by bone marrow hypoplasia without bone marrow involvement progressed and was treated by PSL. ⑤ -2 weeks: he experience fever in spite of antibiotics and serious G-CSF-resistant pancytopenia.

Autopsy findings: ⑥ HCC, poorly differentiated type, had shrunk to 30% in volume with viable tumor cells found in primary area and metastatic foci, including lungs, lymph nodes, adrenals, jejunum, and colon. ⑦ Candidiasis was found in stomach, left renal pelvis, and urinary bladder. ⑧ bone marrow hypoplasia and hemophagocytosis in bone marrow and spleen with splenomegaly (150g), interstitial pneumonia, lymphocytic infiltration in subsided chronic hepatitis C with alcoholic fatty change.

Consideration: This case revealed secondary HPS (HLH, CSS), bone marrow hypoplasia, splenomegaly, interstitial pneumonia, and lymphocytic infiltrate, which should be induced by HCC, infection, or ICI treatment. We estimate that ICI therapies most likely contribute to the pathogenesis of HPS as irAE on the basis of the episodes #②–④, and ⑧.

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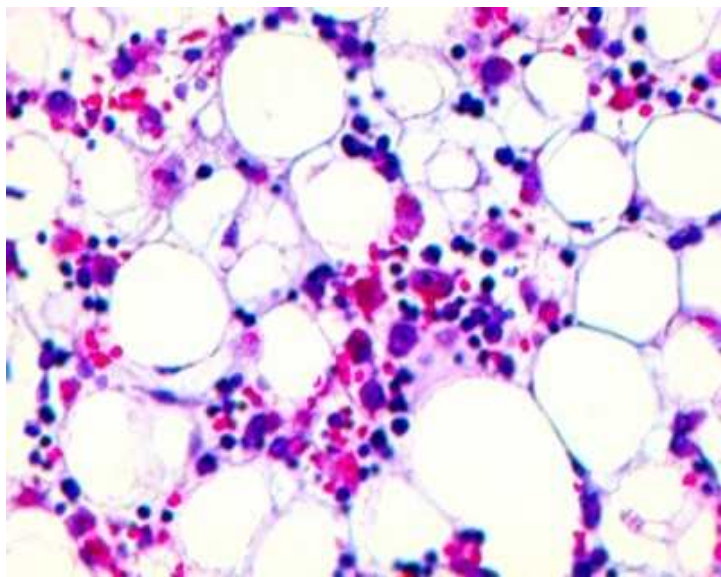


Fig.1 bone marrow, hypoplasia, HE stain, x100,

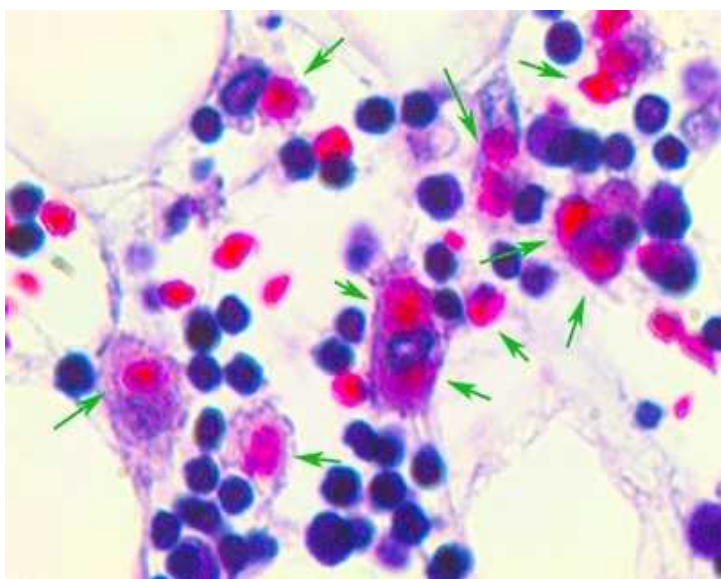


Fig. 2. bone marrow, dominant histiocytes with hemophagocytosis, HE stain, x600.

和文抄録：

短報 （長岡中央病院解剖番号 SN24-001）

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肝細胞癌に対する免疫チェックポイント阻害薬併用療法後に血球貪食症候群を発症した 1 剖検例

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キーワードと略語：

CDDP：シスプラチン、

CSS：サイトカインストーム症候群

CTL α ：細胞傷害性 T リンパ球関連蛋白質

G-CSF：顆粒球コロニー刺激因子、

HCC：肝細胞癌、

HLH：血球貪食性リンパ組織球症、（=HPS）、

HPS：血球貪食症候群、（=HLH）、

ICI：免疫チェックポイント阻害薬

irAE：免疫関連有害事象、

MTT: 分子標的治療、

NCH: 長岡中央病院、

PDL1：プログラム細胞死 1 リガンド 1、

PSL：プレドニゾロン、

TACE：肝動脈化学塞栓療法、

TKI: チロシンキナーゼ阻害薬、

VEGFR：血管内皮増殖因子受容体、

要約

臨床経過： 剖検前－1 年 10 月：症例は 70 才男性で、肝細胞癌（S6, 7, 低分化型、肝静脈、下大静脈浸潤、stage IIIB) に対して、抗 VEGFR2,3 多 TKI 薬(レンバチニブ)と
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CDDP 肝動脈化学塞栓療法が実施された。が、肺転移を来す効果判定基準「憎悪」であった。-1年2月：抗 PDL1（アテゾリズマブ）+抗 VEGF（ベバシズマブ）ICI 治療変更も肺転移憎悪であった。レンバチニブ再投与で部分奏功になったが、最終的に憎悪となった。-7月：抗 PDL1（デュルバルマブ）+抗 CTLA-4（トレメリムマブ）ICI 治療変更にも関わらず頸部リンパ節転移を来し、治療効果判定は憎悪であった。頸部 30Gy 緩和照射後、-2月：発熱を来し、汎血球減少、骨髓低形成（骨髓転移無し）、PSL 投与、輸血、G-CSF、抗生剤治療に反応せず剖検となった。

解剖所見：肝細胞癌（低分化型、転移：肺、リンパ節、副腎、空腸、大腸；消化管腫瘍部出血）、カンジダ症（胃、左腎盂、膀胱）、血球貪食症候群、骨髓低形成、脾腫（150g）、間質性肺炎、肝線維症・リンパ球浸潤（C 型肝炎、アルコール性）、胸水であった。

考察：血球貪食症候群HPS（HLH）・骨髓低形成・脾腫・間質性肺炎・リンパ球浸潤等の原因は、1. 肝細胞癌、2. 感染症、3. 免疫チェックポイント阻害薬 ICI 治療による免疫関連有害事象irAE のサイトカインストーム症候群が示唆された。可能性としては、ICI のirAE が最も考えられる。