An adolescent with rhabdomyosarcoma during pregnancy

Cristina Meazza, Michela Casanova, Elena Zaffignani, Carlo Alfredo Clerici, Francesca Favini, Roberto Vasquez, and Andrea Ferrari

Pediatric Oncology Unit, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan, Italy

ABSTRACT

We report the case of a 15-year-old girl with a large gluteal and perineal rhabdomyosarcoma diagnosed at 24 weeks of pregnancy, whose management posed a great clinical dilemma for us. The patient refused to consider a therapeutic abortion, so we opted for a customized treatment with mild doses of chemotherapy administered weekly to control tumor growth while minimizing fetal and perinatal complications. After the delivery of a healthy female, we adopted a more intensive chemotherapy regimen plus irradiation. Despite an initially good response, the disease unfortunately progressed and the patient died of her disease.

Key words: rhabdomyosarcoma, pregnancy, chemotherapy.

Acknowledgments: This research was partly funded by the Associazione Bianca Garavaglia. The authors wish to thank Dr Davide Scaramuzza for the radiological picture.

Correspondence to: Cristina Meazza, MD, Pediatric Oncology Unit, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Via G. Venezian, 20133 Milan, Italy. Tel +39-02-23902588; fax +39-02-23902648; e-mail cristina.meazza@istitutotumori.mi.it

Received July 5, 2007; accepted July 13, 2007.