

Severe spontaneous acute tumor lysis syndrome and hypoglycemia in patient with germ cell tumor

Vito D'Alessandro¹, Antonio Greco¹, Celeste Clemente², Marco Sperandeo¹, Angelo De Cata¹, Concetta Di Micco³, Evaristo Maiello³, and Gianluigi Vendemiale^{1,4}

¹Unit of Internal Medicine, ²Unit of Pathology, and ³Unit of Oncology, IRCCS "Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza" Hospital, San Giovanni Rotondo; ⁴Department of Medical Science, University of Foggia, Foggia, Italy

ABSTRACT

Tumor lysis syndrome has been observed in patients with bulky, treatment-sensitive tumors, in particular hematological malignancies, especially after medical treatment (chemotherapy, corticosteroids, radiation, hormonal agents, and biological response modifiers). Tumor lysis syndrome has been observed also in solid malignancies and it very rarely occurs spontaneously. Tumor lysis syndrome-associated metabolic abnormalities include hyperuricemia, hyperphosphatemia, hyperkalemia, hypocalcemia and uremia. Severe hypoglycemia is another rare metabolic disorder, uncommonly associated with solid malignancies. The case described here is peculiar for the abrupt onset of these two rare conditions in a patient with a metastatic germ cell tumor. Free full text available at www.tumorionline.it

Key words: TLS, hypoglycemia, germ cell tumor, choriocarcinoma.

Correspondence to: Dr Vito D'Alessandro, Internal Medicine Department, IRCCS "Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza", Viale Cappuccini, 71013 San Giovanni Rotondo (FG), Italy.
Tel +39-0882-410218;
fax +39-0882-410563;
e-mail
v.dalessandro@operapadrepio.it

Received November 26, 2009;
accepted March 31, 2010.