Answer: Retroperitoneal sarcoma

MCQ Explanation:

Retroperitoneal Sarcoma (RPS) is a rare soft tissue tumor with an incidence of 0.5 to 1 new cases per 100,000 patients (1). The retroperitoneum offers an environment in which the tumor can grow without any symptoms, hence RPS tumors are often very large at time of diagnosis (2). Even though these tumors are discovered incidentally in asymptomatic patients, the most common complaints are abdominal or back pain (2). The standard method of staging includes CT scan with contrast of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis. MRI can be used for patient with allergies to intravenous contrast (1). Imaging-guided core biopsy is recommended to confirm the diagnosis, unless the imaging is pathognomonic. (1). Histopathological diagnosis is challenging due to the similarity of the morphologic pattern with other tumors like melanoma, lymphoma and gastrointestinal stromal tumor. Immuno-histochemical staining often helps identify the presumptive tissue of origin, the tumor subtype and the final diagnosis. Although surgery can be curative, no universal recommendations on management of RPS have been defined (1). The role of chemotherapy and radiation therapy remains unclear without high quality supporting evidence (2).

Our patient was diagnosed with RPS based on a core biopsy of the retroperitoneal mass. He underwent successful surgical resection of the mass, but deferred chemotherapy. He is continues to be closely followed by a multidisciplinary team.

References:


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