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Summary

PRIMARY LEIOMYOSARCOMA OF THE LIVER: A “HIDE AND SEEK” PLAY

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023 | Poster

Hepatobiliary

October 17, 2023

A case report describes a primary hepatic leiomyosarcoma initially misdiagnosed as hepatocellular carcinoma due to HCV cirrhosis, elevated AFP (7,073 ng/mL), and typical HCC imaging, which responded to sorafenib treatment.

KEY POINTS

- A 69-year-old man with HCV-related cirrhosis presented with a liver mass showing arterial wash-in and venous washout on imaging and AFP of 7,073 ng/mL, leading to an initial diagnosis of HCC with portal vein thrombosis.
- Sorafenib treatment started in August 2021 resulted in partial response by mRECIST criteria and complete normalization of AFP levels.
- Right hepatectomy two months later revealed primary hepatic leiomyosarcoma on histology, with R1 resection margins.
- The patient received adjuvant pazopanib but progressed through various chemotherapy regimens and died in September 2022.
- The authors present this as the first reported case of primary hepatic leiomyosarcoma expressing high AFP levels and responding to sorafenib, noting that this rare tumor is seldom considered in differential diagnosis of liver masses.

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