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ENDOSCOPIC GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER SCREENING FINDINGS IN PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE MYELOMA RECEIVING IMMUNOMODULATORY DRUGS

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Immunomodulatory drugs (IMiDs) may predispose to second primary cancers during the treatment process of multiple myeloma. Current guidelines recommend making a cost-benefit calculation when recommending these treatments to patients. Among solid tumors, an increase in gastrointestinal cancers has also been reported. We aimed to evaluate endoscopic findings performed with suspicion of gastrointestinal cancer in patients with multiple myeloma who received IMiD treatment. Patients with Multiple Myeloma who received any of the IMiDs in our clinic were evaluated retrospectively.

RESULTS:

Seventy-four patients with multiple myeloma with a median age of 62 (35-79) were evaluated retrospectively. Autologous stem cell transplantation was performed in 52 (70.2%). Lenalidomide was used in 69 (93%), pomalidomide was used in 9 (12%), and thalidomide was used in 5 (6.7%) patients. Iron deficiency (ferritin <30 µg/L) was detected in 42 (56%) of the patients. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy was performed in 26 of these patients. Gastritis was detected in 24 (92.3%) patients (15 *Helicobacter pylori* negative, 5 *Helicobacter pylori* positive), hyperplastic polyp was detected in 2 (7.6%) patients, and duodenal tubular adenoma was detected in 1 (3.8%) patient. Lower gastrointestinal endoscopy performed in 27 patients revealed grade 1 hemorrhoids in 23 (85%) patients, tubular adenoma in 9 (33.3%) patients, hyperplastic polyp in 4 (14.8%) patients, and diverticulosis in 2 (7.4%) patients. Two of the 32 patients without iron deficiency had upper endoscopy and antral gastritis was detected. 4 patients underwent colonoscopy. Ulcerative colitis was detected in 1 patient and adenomatous polyp was detected in 1 patient.

CONCLUSIONS:

Iron deficiency is common with IMiDs in multiple myeloma, but gastrointestinal cancer has not been observed in this patient group. However, findings requiring surveillance, such as tubular adenoma were detected and this situation requires treatment revisions.

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