

A Case of Colon Cancer During Pregnancy

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Abstract: A 37-year-old Japanese pregnant woman, gravida 3, para 2, with a history of strong tenderness in the left lower quadrant abdomen apart from the uterus, was referred to our department at 27 weeks of gestation. An ultrasound examination had shown the presence of an irregular mass measuring 70×50 mm in size. At first, we diagnosed diverticulitis after a consultation of a surgical team and this patient received an intravenous infusion of antibiotics and ritodrine hydrochloride. At 30 weeks of gestation, the levels of liver enzymes increased. The laboratory data were as follows; AST: 61 IU/ml, ALT: 57 IU/ml, LDH: 709 IU/ml, Total bilirubin: 2.0 mg/dl, Carcinoembryonic antigen: 86.7 ng/ml, CA125: 103 U/ml, CA19-9: 1,794 U/ml. We thereafter performed ultrasonography of the upper abdomen which disclosed a 10 cm solid mass in the liver. Moreover, colonoscopy and biopsy at 30 weeks of gestation showed moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma of the sigmoid colon. The patient underwent a cesarean section and sigmoidectomy at 30 weeks of gestation. The histologic findings did not show any tumor invasion of the ovaries or placenta. This case was classified as T3N0M1 (Stage IV) according to TNM classification. A 1,564 g male was delivered. The Apgar scores were 1 at one minute and 6 at five minutes.

Mechanical ventilation was started immediately after birth. Her baby is well at 16 months of age with no evidence of any neurological sequelae. The patient died 16 months after surgery due to inferior vena caval syndrome.

Key words : pregnancy, colon cancer