MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATED WITH THYMOMA AND TOXIC MULTINODULAR GOITER. A CASE REPORT

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MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATED WITH THYMOMA AND TOXIC MULTINODULAR GOITER. A CASE REPORT (Abstract): Adequate antithyroid drug treatment or surgery usually generates remission of myasthenia gravis (MG) in patients with thymus hyperplasia associated with Graves’ hyperthyroidism. The case of a 46-year-old woman diagnosed with MG based on the clinical picture, anticholinesterase drug test and positive electromyography (EMG) is presented. The cervico-thoracic computer tomography revealed a compressive nodular goiter and normal antero-superior mediastinum and led to the diagnosis of MG secondary to the hyperthyroidism. An uneventful total thyroidectomy was performed, but postoperatively the MG symptoms worsened. Tc⁹⁹ᵐ tetrofosmin scintigraphy revealed an area of hyperfixation in the antero-inferior mediastinum, suggestive for thymoma, as confirmed by a repeated thoracic CT scan. Following a longitudinal sternotomy, a well encapsulated tumor of approximately 6/5 cm located in the antero-inferior mediastinum was found and an extensive thymomectomy was performed. The postoperative course was uneventful and the patient was discharged 9 days later with complete remission of myasthenia. The pathology report of the specimen revealed a mixt thymoma or AB thymoma after Muller-Hermelink and WHO classification, with invasive capsular foci corresponding to Masaoka II stadium. In conclusion, scintigraphy proved to be useful in the diagnosis and decision making of a thymoma. Key words: SCINTIGRAPHY, HYPERTHYROIDISM, MYASTHENIA GRAVIS, THYMOMA

The association between thyroid and thymus diseases, especially between Graves’ hyperthyroidism and thymus hyperplasia with myasthenia gravis is reported in the literature but no standardized therapeutic standard is established. Both conditions can aggravate each other and a case tailored management is made by a multidisciplinary team.

The aim of this case report was to emphasize the role of a non-invasive imagistic investigation which resulted in operative decision making regarding a thymus lesion with a fatal potential if left untreated.

CASE REPORT
A 46-year-old woman, with a 2 years history of ocular, bulbar and limb muscles...