Bronchial carcinoma

- .most common fatal lung malignancy account for 95% of lung cancer
- .leading cause of cancer death.
- .peak incidence occur between ages 55-65 years . .there is a 3:1 male : female ratio.
- . Aetiology :
 - smoking is the most common aetiological factor.
 others: passive smokers , exposure to asbestos, chromium , iron oxide and products of cool combustion

Types: There are 4 major types :

1- epidermiod [squamous] -35%
 2- adeno carinema -30%
 3- large cell carcinoma -15%

4- small cell lung cancer -20%

Epidermiod carcinoma -35% :

.occurs most frequently in men and old people
.usually starts on one breathing tubes.
.tend to be localized in the chest longer than other types of lung cancer.
.does not tend to metastasize early.
.It is strongly associated with smoking.

Adenocarcinnoma-30%:

.most common cancer among women. usually started near the outer edges of the lung. .Invasion of pleura and mediastinal lymph node is common. .may spread to other parts of the body. .can be seen in non smoker.

Large cell carcinoma – 15% :

.less well – differentiated. .may occur at any part of the lung. .Tumors are large by the time they are diagnosed. .has greater possibility of spreading to brain and mediastinum.

Small cell lung cancer:

.small cell lung cancer also called oatcell because SCLC cells have oat grain appearance.
.It arises from endocrine cells [kulchitisky cells] where many hormones are secreted

.spread to lymph nodes and other organs more quickly than NSCLC. .usually started in one larger breathing tube.
.Tend to grow rapidly .
.commonly has spread by the time and is considered a systemic disease.
.It is the only one of the bronchial carcinomas that respond to chemotherapy

presentations:

.lung cancer may present in number of different ways : .most commonly symptoms reflect local involvement of the bronchus. .may also arise from spread to the chest wall or mediastinum or from distant blood-borne spread.

Local effects of tumor within the bronchus :

1- cough (in 80% of cases):

- It is the most common early symptoms.

- sputum is purulant if there is sec. infection.

 A change in the character of the (regular cough) associated with other new respiratory symptoms increase the possibility of B.C.

2- Haemoptysis (in 70% of cases):

 Repeated episodes of scanty cough hemoptysis or blood –streaking of sputum in smokers are highly suggestive of B.C and should be always investigated. 3- Dyspnea (60% of cases): - reflect occulusion of a large bronchus resulting in collapse of a lobe of the lung or development of plearal effusion. 4- Plearal pain : reflect malignant invasion of the pleura or reflect infection distal to a tumuor (wich is recurrent and fail to resolve)

Direct spread:

Involvement of pleura and ribs . Pancoast's tumour:

-involvement of lower part of the brachial plexus (C8 , T1,T2) causing severe pain of the shoulder and down inner surface of the arm.
-Horner syndrom: due to involvement of the sympathetic ganglion. -recurrent laryngeal nerve palsy : causing unilateral vocal cord paresis with hoarsness of voice and a bovine cough.

Invation of phrenic nerve , causing paralysis of the diaghragm.

 Involvement of esophagus , causing dysphagia.

 Cardiovascular:atrial fibrillation, temponade ,pericarditis ,pericardial effusion . Superior vena cava obstruction causing early morning headache, facial congestion and edema involving the upper limb, distention of jugular vein and veins of the chest. Nonmetastatic extra pulmonary manifistation:

1- Endocrine manifestation: 12% of tumors, in particular small cell tumors present with SIADH, ACTH secretion(SCLC), hypercalcemia(sq.cell carcinoma) ,bone metastasis gynaecomastia(LCLC).

2- Neurological manifetation: e.g: sensory polyneuropathy ,myelopathy, cerebellar degeneration.

3- Others:

Digital clubbing , hypertrophic pulmenary osteo-arthropathy (sq.cell cancer) , nephrotic syndrom, DIC, hypercoagulopathy (adenocarcinoma), ,thrombophelibitis migricans.

Blood borne metastasis:

Bony metastasis giving severe bony pain and pathalogical fractures.

.liver metastasis (Jundice)

 Brain metastasis (change in personality, epilpsy,focal neurological symptoms).

Physical signs:

Examination is usually normal unless there is significant bronchial obstruction or tumor has spread to pleura or mediastinum. 1- physical signs of collapse (in large obstructing tumor) which may rise to pneumonia.

2- monophonic or unilateral wheeze (fixed bronchial obstruction).

3- stridor (obstruction at or above the lever of main carina.

4- hoarsness of voice associated with bovine cough (recurrent laryngeal nerve palsy).

5- dullness percussion and absent breath sounds at the lung base (unilateral diaphragmatic palsy due to involvement of phrenic nerve) 6- physical signs of pleursy or pleural effusion (involvement of pleura).

7- bilateral engorgement of the jangular vein and later edema affecting face, neck, arms.

8- tenderness and pain of long bone and joints (HPOA).

Management

Investigation:

 Sputum cytology: high yield for endobronchial tumors such as squamous cell and small cell carcinoma.

chest x-ray: common radiological presentation of bronchial carcinoma. 1- unilateral hilar-enlagement. 2- peripheral pulmonary opacity. 3- lung, lobe or segmental collapse.

4- pleural effusion .
5- broadening of the mediastinum, enlarged cardiac shadow, elevation of hemidiaphram.
6- rib distruction.

Pleural fluid cytology in pleural effusion . Bronchoscopy : gives high yield in excess of 90% (allows biopsy and bronchial brush samples) if fail precautious fine needle aspiration under CT.

.CT thorax and upper abdomen. Head CT scan. Radio nuclide bone scanning. liver US. .bone marrow biobsy.

Treatment:

1- surgery : in patient with localized disease and non-small cell cancer. 2- solitary pulmonary nodule, resection if : 1- age ≥ 35 2-segarette smoking. 3- large (>2 cm) lesion. 4-lack of cacification. 5-chest symptoms. 6- growth of lesion compared old CXR.

3- for unresectable non-small cell cancer, metastatic disease, or refusal of surgery: radio therapy +chemo therapy may reduce death risk by 13% at 2 years.

4- small cell lung cancer : combination chemotherapy is standard mode of therapy with long-term survival. 5- laser obliteration of tumor though bronchoscopy in presence of bronchial obstruction.

6- Radio therapy for brain metastasis, spinal cord comprission, symptomatic mass, bone lesion.
7- Encourage cessation of smoking.

References:

-Parveen Kumar and Michael Clark, clinical medicine.fourth edition. -Davidsons; principles and practice of medicine ;19TH edition. -R.R Baliga, 250 cases in clinical medicine, international edition. -R.A.Hope, etal;Oxford hand book of clinical medicine,4TH edition

Thank you