

# Monoblastic Sarcoma- A Rare Case Report of Myeloid Sarcoma Variant

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## ABSTRACT

Myeloid sarcoma also known as chloroma, granulocytic sarcoma, extramedullary Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), myeloblastoma or extramedullary myeloid tumour is a rare manifestation, characterised by the proliferation of immature myeloid cells, myeloblasts or monoblasts occurring as one or more tumour at an extramedullary site. It is associated with disruption of normal architecture of tissue in which it is found. Monoblastic sarcoma is a rare variant of myeloid sarcoma. Hereby, the authors report a case of primary monoblastic sarcoma in a 64-year-old male patient presented with complaint of swelling over right side lower cervical region. He had no history of AML. On physical examination, the swelling was over medial one-third of right clavicle measuring 6×5.8×3 cm. The swelling was excised and sent for histopathological examination, which was diagnosed as monoblastic sarcoma, and confirmed on immunohistochemistry.

**Keywords:** Immunohistochemistry, Monoblasts, Monoblastic variant

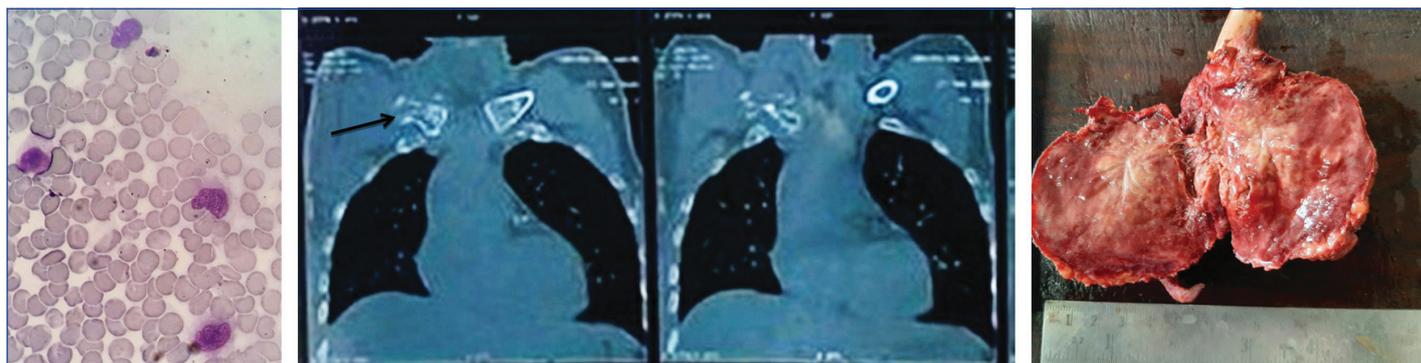
## CASE REPORT

A 64-year-old male presented with chief complaint of swelling over right side lower cervical region since one and half year. There was no significant past history. The swelling was gradual in onset and progressively increasing in size. On physical examination, the swelling was over medial right clavicular region, measuring 6×5.8×3 cm. The swelling was non tender, soft to firm in consistency. Complete Blood Count (CBC) and Peripheral Blood Smear (PBS) were within normal limit. On Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology (FNAC), the smear examined revealed cellular smear comprising of discohesive cluster and singly dispersed monomorphic cell population in haemorrhagic background. The cells had minimal pleomorphism, slightly indented or clefted nuclei, fine chromatin, occasionally prominent nucleoli and moderate basophilic cytoplasm with well-defined outline [Table/Fig-1]. On the basis of these findings, differential diagnosis of myeloid sarcoma and malignant lymphoma was made and histopathological examination was advised.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) right clavicle with contrast revealed a hetero-signal intensity destructive bony lesion involving medial aspect of right clavicle measuring 5.2×5.4×5.6 cm intermingled multiple small calcifications [Table/Fig-2]. The swelling was excised and sent for histopathological examination. On

gross examination, the specimen revealed one firm reddish grey globular piece of tissue with attached piece of bone. The tissue was measuring 6.7×6.8×3 cm and bone measuring 7 cm in length and diameter varied from 1-4 cm with eroded bony surface [Table/Fig-3]. On histopathological examination, the sections examined revealed highly cellular tumour comprising of mononuclear cells arranged in sheets. The cells were medium to large in size with moderate eosinophilic cytoplasm, round to oval nuclei with fine stranded chromatin and conspicuous nucleoli in most of cells [Table/Fig-4,5].

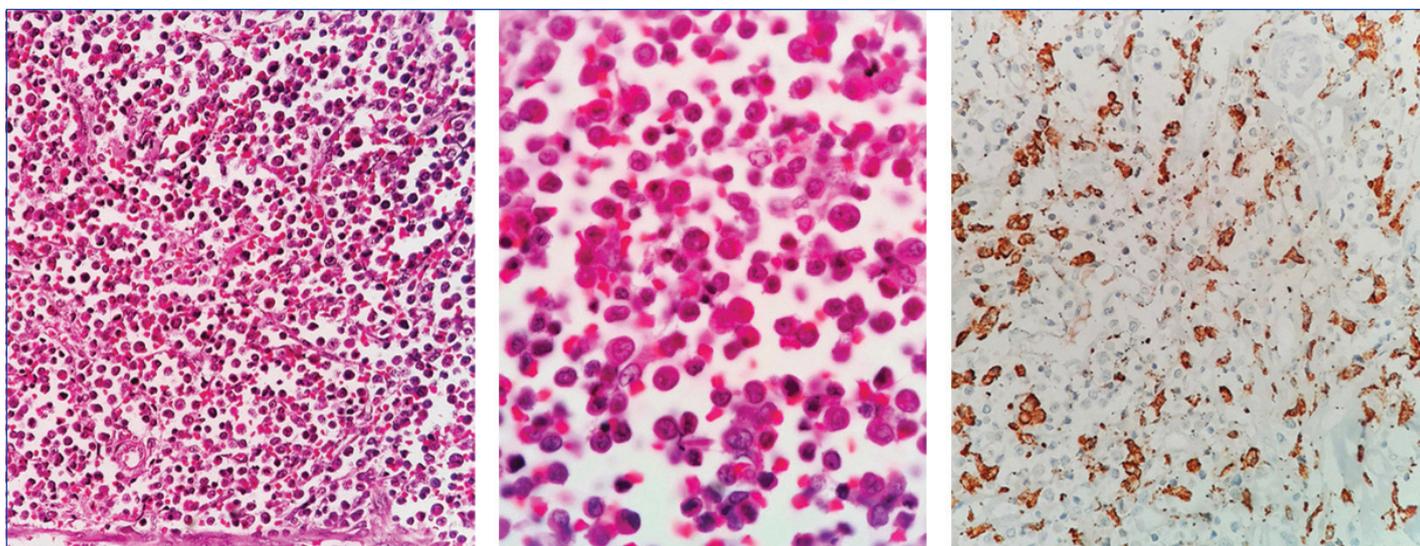
On histological examination, the diagnosis of monoblastic sarcoma was made with the differential of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL) and small round cell tumour. On Immunohistochemistry (IHC), the tumour was found CD68 Phosphoglucomutase 1 (PGM1) [Table/Fig-6], CD163 [Table/Fig-7] positive and scattered Myeloperoxidase (MPO) [Table/Fig-8] positivity and negative for CD34 [Table/Fig-9]. On the basis of IHC, the diagnosis of monoblastic sarcoma was confirmed. After surgery and IHC confirmation of diagnosis, the patient was referred to Radiotherapy Department for further treatment. Patient received 25 cycles of radiotherapy followed by six cycles of chemotherapy along with symptomatic treatment. Now patient is on regular follow-up and doing well. Last follow-up was done on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021.



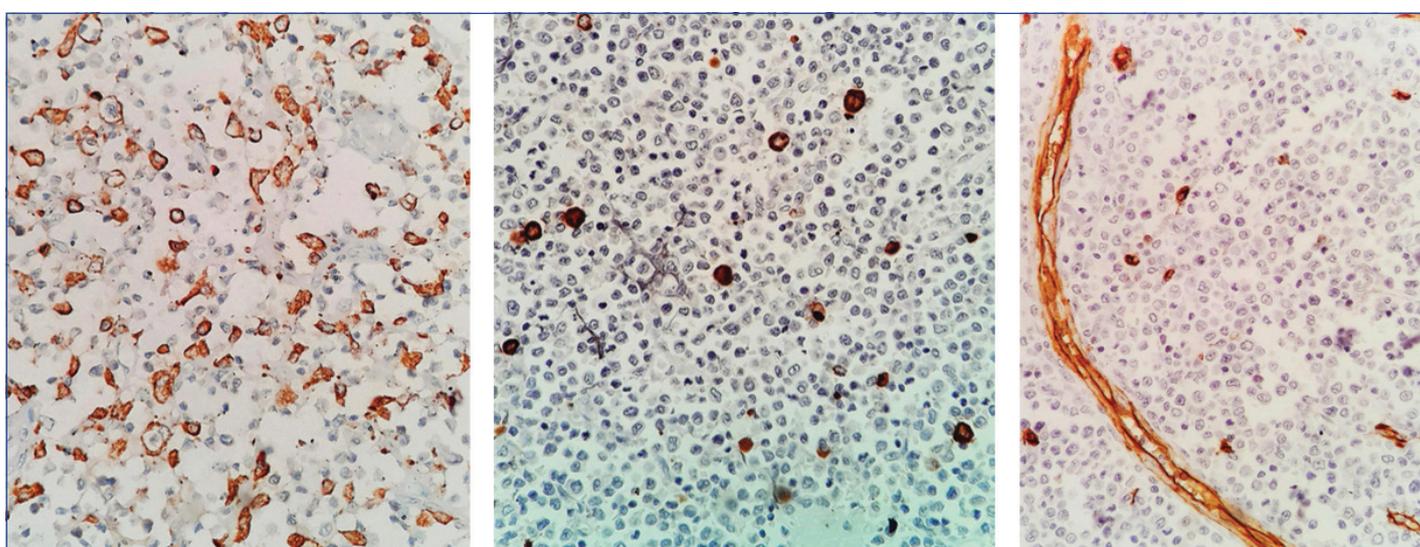
**[Table/Fig-1]:** Showing low cellularity with singly dispersed tumour cells in haemorrhagic background, cells having moderate amount of cytoplasm indented nuclei with clumped chromatin and conspicuous nucleoli in few cells; suggestive of Myeloid Sarcoma variant (May Grunwald Giemsa (MGG) stain, 1000X).

**[Table/Fig-2]:** Showing hetero-signal intensity destructive bony lesion involving medial aspect of right clavicle with intermingled multiple small calcifications.

**[Table/Fig-3]:** Showing cut surface of gross specimen with reddish grey globular piece of tissue along with attached bone. (Images from left to right)



**[Table/Fig-4]:** Showing mononuclear cells arranged in sheets. The tumour cells are medium to large with moderate eosinophilic cytoplasm and fine chromatin; Monoblastic sarcoma (H&E, 400X). **[Table/Fig-5]:** Showing mononuclear cells arranged in sheets. The tumour cells are medium to large with moderate eosinophilic cytoplasm and fine chromatin; Monoblastic sarcoma (H&E, 1000X). **[Table/Fig-6]:** Showing CD68 PGM1 cytoplasmic granular positivity (IHC, 400X). (Images from left to right)



**[Table/Fig-7]:** Showing CD163 cytoplasmic granular positivity (IHC, 400X). **[Table/Fig-8]:** Showing MPO scattered positivity in occasional tumour cells (IHC, 400X). **[Table/Fig-9]:** Showing CD34 negative tumour cells with blood vessels positivity-internal control (IHC, 400X). (Images from left to right)

## DISCUSSION

Granulocytic sarcoma was first described by Burns in 1811 and in 1853 King gave name chloroma while renamed in 1966 by Rappaport as Granulocytic sarcoma. It has an estimated incidence of 0.7 per million children and two per million adults [1]. It can occur in any age and can involve any anatomical site throughout the body [2]. Myeloid sarcoma may develop de novo or simultaneously with systemic bone marrow leukaemia which is known as secondary myeloid sarcoma. Myeloid sarcoma occurring in absence of a history of leukaemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, myeloproliferative neoplasm and without bone marrow involvement, is termed as primary myeloid sarcoma [3]. Monoblastic sarcoma is a rare variant of myeloid sarcoma comprising of more than 80% monoblasts [4]. Myeloid sarcoma is a neoplasm present at any extramedullary sites and comprising of immature granulocytes, monocytes, or both [5]. Initially, described as chloroma due to green coloured appearance on exposed to air, which occur due to the presence of MPO in the tumour cells. Because the greenish colour is not a consistent finding and proven granulocytic origin, so the terms granulocytic sarcoma or myeloid sarcoma are preferably used by most of the authors.

On the basis of different site involvement, such as soft tissues, skin, bones, lymph nodes; the patients present with various clinical presentation [6]. Myeloid sarcomas may be found in one of four settings [7]: 1) The active phase of the disease in patients with known AML; 2) The myeloid sarcoma may be the first manifestation

of blastic transformation of chronic myeloproliferative disorder and myelodysplastic syndrome; 3) Relapse as the first manifestation in patients previously treated for primary or secondary acute leukaemia; 4) De novo in healthy subjects, in whom typical form of AML occurs after an interval of weeks to years. Myeloid sarcoma has been reported from one month to 89 years with male preponderance with maximum number of cases in their last decade of life [8]. Myeloid sarcoma is often misdiagnosed as NHL in approximately 46% of patients, with other differential diagnosis including, Ewing's sarcoma, extramedullary hematopoiesis, malignant mastocytosis with atypical mast cells and malignant histiocytosis. The definitive diagnosis of granulocytic sarcoma is usually based on immunohistochemistry and/or immunophenotyping [9]. On the basis of extensive morphological and immunohistochemical analyses, the myeloid sarcomas are classified into five types [5]: i) immature granulocytic sarcoma; ii) differentiated granulocytic sarcoma; iii) monoblastic sarcoma; iv) monocytic sarcoma; and v) myelomonocytic sarcoma. Microscopically monoblastic sarcomas are composed of a large population (>80%) of monoblasts.

The large sized neoplastic cells with abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm, round/oval nuclei with dispersed chromatin and one or multiple prominent nucleoli are strongly positive for CD43, lysozyme, CD68, CD163, while weakly positive for CD4, and negative for CD34 [6]. Cytochemical stain such as Myeloperoxidase (MPO) and lysozyme helps in definitive diagnosis. MPO is positive in most myeloblastic variants, while lysozyme is frequently expressed in monoblastic

variants. Megakaryoblastic cells characteristically express factor VIII, CD61, and CD31 while Glycophorin C and/or blood group proteins are usually expressed in the rare erythroblastic variant [10]. Immunohistochemical study plays an essential role in obtaining a correct diagnosis of monoblastic sarcoma. MPO immunopositivity is specific for granulocytic differentiation, while CD68 (PGM1)-positivity indicate monocytic differentiation without any symptom of leukaemia. The most sensitive markers for myeloid differentiation are MPO and CD117, while monocytic precursors are most strongly expressed by CD68 [5]. In our case, photomicrographs demonstrated positive immunohistochemical staining for CD68, CD163, and with scattered positivity for MPO, and negative for CD34 [Table/Fig-6-9].

The treatment recommended for isolated monoblastic sarcoma or myeloid sarcoma and myeloid sarcoma occurring in AML patients is AML type chemotherapy. Better overall survival in patients presenting with myeloid sarcoma with or without concomitant AML, shown to be associated with haematopoietic stem cell transplantation. In case of monoblastic sarcoma prompt diagnosis and initiation of chemotherapy as early as possible prevents distant spread to other organs [8,11].

## CONCLUSION(S)

Myeloid sarcoma is an uncommon entity and monoblastic sarcoma is one of its rare variant. Histopathological examination and IHC are required for confirming the diagnosis.

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