Original article **UDC: 616-006.44-053.2**
doi: 10.5633/amm.2022.0103

MANTLE CELL LYMPHOMA – A KILLER WITH A CHILD'S FACE

Miljan Krstić[1,2], Slavica Stojnev[1,2], Ivan Petković[3,4]

[1]University Clinical Center Niš, Center for Pathology, Niš, Serbia
[2]University of Niš, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pathology, Niš, Serbia
[3]University Clinical Center Niš, Clinic of Oncology, Niš, Serbia
[4]University of Niš, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Oncology, Niš, Serbia

Contact: Miljan Krstić
48 Dr Zoran Djindjić Blvd., 18000 Niš, Serbia
E-mail: krstic.miljan@gmail.com

Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) is a distinct type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma with very aggressive clinical behavior. Despite its bland morphology, MCL remains incurable and deadly disease, although several variants with more indolent clinical course have been recognized. This study aimed to comprehensively analyze pathological features of MCL in patients from Southeastern Serbia and to determine the frequency of this devastating disease in our population. During the five-year period, the diagnosis of MCL was established in 47 cases, which constitutes 10.3% of all newly diagnosed lymphomas in our Center for Pathology, University Clinical Center Niš. The majority of the patients were men, 72.3%, and the average patients' age at the time of diagnosis was 66.1 years. Extranodal presentation was observed in 61.7%. Every fourth case of MCL was diagnosed on bone marrow biopsy. The oral cavity and the gastrointestinal tract were equally represented as extranodal diagnostic location with 17% each. MCL encompasses large spectrum of architectural patterns and cytological variants thus its diagnosis requires immunohistochemical analysis of CyclinD1 and SOX11 for correct diagnosis and distinction from other lymphoid neoplasms and reactive and hyperplastic conditions. Variant morphology of MCL may be easily confused with potentially curable or indolent lymphomas. Accurate and precise diagnosis of MCL may improve patients' outcome through timely application of new and promising treatment strategies. Pathologist role in proper recognition and rapid diagnosis of MCL and its subtype, especially in biopsies from extranodal locations, including endoscopic biopsies, may contribute significantly to longer survival and better clinical outcome of the disease.

Acta Medica Medianae 2022;61(1):23-29.

Key words: *mantle cell lymphoma, diagnosis, pathology, immunohistochemistry, CyclinD1*