A 54 year old man was admitted for evaluation of abdominal fullness of 2 weeks duration. He denied any additional complaints. Physical examination at admission revealed a tense ascites. Laboratory tests, including liver function, were within normal limits. Figure 1, a contrast-enhanced computed tomography scan, shows peritoneal fluid with characteristics of exudates. The cytologic examination was non-diagnostic. Laparoscopic biopsy of the peritoneum disclosed a poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma of an unknown primary site. Three weeks later the patient developed jaundice, and the laboratory picture showed cholestasis: total bilirubin level 13.4 mg/dl with a predominant direct hyperbilirubinemia. Three-phase CT and subsequent endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (Figures 2 and 3) demonstrated cholangiocarcinoma.

Diffuse peritoneal infiltration, designated omental cake, occurs most commonly as secondary to intraperitoneal tumor spread. Although rare, additional causes include inflammatory conditions such as tuberculosis, Crohn's disease, phlegmonous pancreatitis, and benign tumor such as desmoid fibroma [1]. The distribution of intraabdominal tumor seeding
is attributed to four mechanisms: a) direct spread from intraabdominal cancers of prostate, uterus, kidney, gastrointestinal malignancies or primary peritoneal tumor, b) peritoneal dissemination, related to the presence of ascitic fluid spreading from ovarian carcinoma; c) hematogenous distribution from distant sites, e.g., breast, lung and melanoma; and d) lymphatic extension, generally associated with primary gastrointestinal lymphoma [2].

While omental cake is classically associated with ovarian carcinoma in females, identification of the primary source in males is sometimes difficult. In most cases the first clinical presentation of the omental cake is ascites [3]. CT scanning is a precise, non-invasive and effective method for the detection of peritoneal disease. The principal CT findings of the omental cake are the presence of grossly abnormal and thickened omentum and ascites (74%) [4]. Indeed, the pattern of tumor involvement of omentum seen in peritoneal carcinomatosis is indistinguishable from that seen in lymphomatosis. Diffuse distribution of enlarged lymph nodes may be helpful signs of lymphatic peritoneal dissemination [5]. CT data and cytologic diagnosis of peritoneal fluid are not informative, as in our patient, and CT-guided or laparoscopic biopsy of peritoneal core is required. Our case is of particular interest for several reasons: first, cholangiocarcinoma rarely presents as ascites or omental cake, especially if the cake appears before any signs of biliary obstruction. Second, the disease was not visualized on recurrent abdominal CT, and peritoneal core biopsy did not provide a definitive diagnosis. Finally, the diagnosis of cholangiocarcinoma was confirmed by three-phase CT and ERCP.

References

Correspondence: Dr Y. Shoenfeld, Dept of Internal Medicine B, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel
Phone: (972-3) 530-6252, Fax: (972-3) 535-2855
email: shoenfel@post.tau.ac.il

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**Coexisting Chondrocalcinosis, Osteoarthritis and Popliteal Cyst**

Gisele Zandman-Goddard MD1, Sigal Tal MD2, Yair Levy MD1 and Alexander Korat MD2

Departments of Medicine B1 and Radiology2, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel
Affiliated to Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel

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A 79 year old male was admitted for pain and swelling in his right calf. Past history included a war injury to the left leg that occurred 40 years previously, and bilateral knee pain for many years. The bilateral knee pain had worsened with activity during the past 4 years, and was relieved with rest, analgesics, and utilization of a cane. A few days prior to admission the patient felt increasing pain and swelling in the right calf.

Physical examination revealed an overweight patient. Local warmth, tenderness, limitation of motion, and a positive bulge sign were found on examination of the right knee. There was fullness in the right popliteal fossa. Bilateral knee crepitus was present. The calf was swollen. The crescent sign was absent.

Radiography of the right knee (Figures 1 and 2) revealed osteoarthritic changes: narrowing of the medial compartment, osteophytes, and soft tissue swelling. In

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**Figure 1.**

**Figure 2.**