

Hodgkin's Lymphoma of the Bone Picked up by ^{67}Ga Scintigraphy

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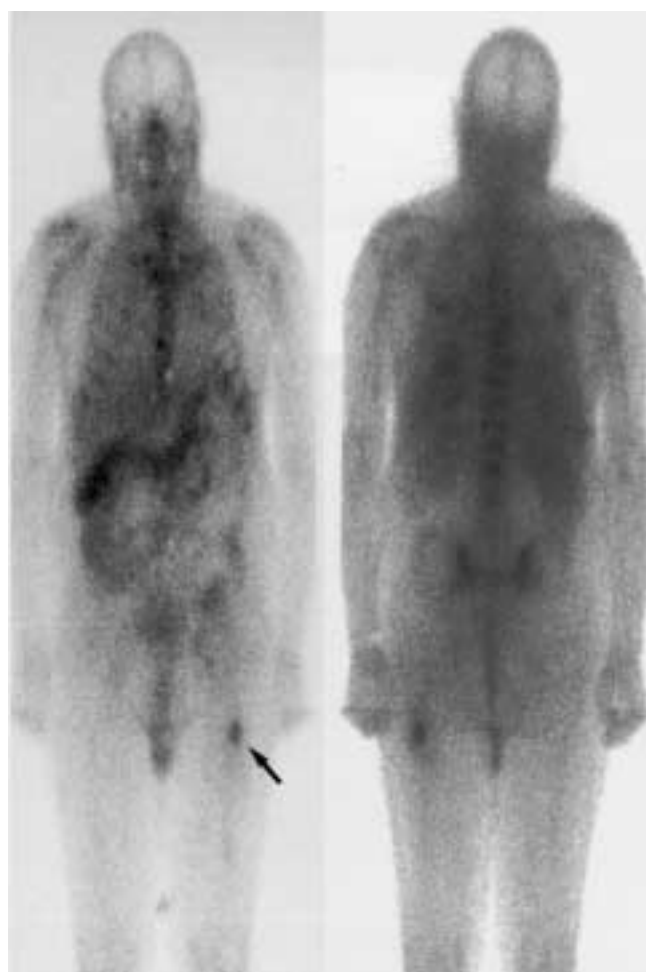
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A 75 year old man was hospitalized in our department for fever of unknown origin (evening temperature 38.5°C for one month). His history revealed Hodgkin's disease diagnosed one year previously that was successfully treated, chronic urticaria, peptic disease and operated nasal basal cell carcinoma well known and without recent specific changes. The patient mentioned the presence of mild pain along the lateral side of the left thigh. At admission a dry cough was the only notable clinical manifestation.

The laboratory data revealed elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate (60 mm/1hour), anemia with blood level of hemoglobin 10.7 g/L, and increased level of lactate dehydrogenase in blood (616 IU/ml). X-ray demonstrated that the chest was normal, as was the left femur. Urine and blood cultures were negative. The fever remained even after initiation of antibiotic therapy. Extended serology investigations were negative. No abnormalities were found at echocardiogram, and computerized tomography of chest, abdomen and pelvis were unremarkable.

The diagnosis was suggested by ^{67}Ga scintigraphy, which revealed the presence of a local radioactive density at the proximal third part of the left femur [Figure]. CT scan of the femur confirmed an increased density of the bone marrow of the proximal third portion of the femur at the level of the trochanters and extending 15 cm distally. The cortex was intact. A bone biopsy revealed recurrence of the Hodgkin's lymphoma in the bone marrow involving the bone itself.

Bone involvement in Hodgkin's disease is uncommon and seldom encountered at initial diagnosis [1]. Usually, patients complain of local pain. ^{67}Ga scintigraphy is the method of choice to reach a diagnosis. Patients with advanced disease usually require local radiotherapy in addition to systemic chemotherapy.



References

1. Borg MF, Chowdhury AD, Bhoopal S, Benjamin CS. Bone involvement in Hodgkin's disease. *Aust Radiol* 1993;37:63-6.

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