21 year old female presented to the ER with right supraclavicular lymphadenopathy, fevers and excessive sweating at night.

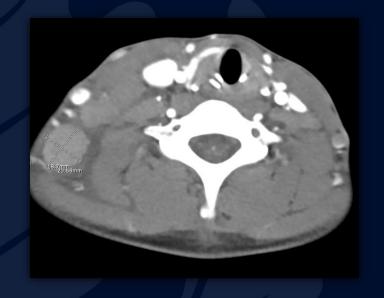
Elena G. Violari M.D.









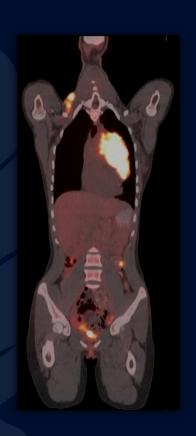


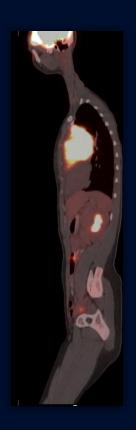


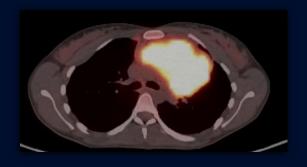






















Plain radiographs



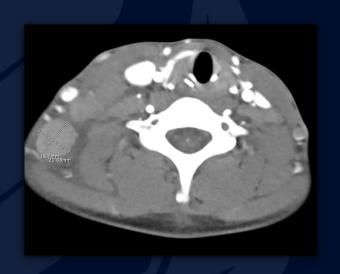


PA view demonstrates mild widening of the left para-tracheal stripe.

Lateral projection suggests a predominantly anterior mediastinal mass.



CT soft tissue neck with IV contrast







Axial, coronal and sagittal views demonstrate bulky adenopathy on the right neck, extending form cervical level III to the supraclavicular region. Nodes are homogeneous and isodense to muscle without necrosis or calcifications.

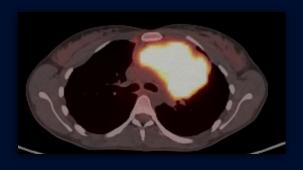


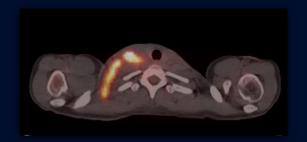
Whole Body PET/CT











Axial, Coronal and Sagittal views demonstrate a large mediastinal mass with intense uptake and several surrounding pre-vascular lymph nodes in combination with right bulky adenopathy that extends from cervical level III down to the supraclavicular region. This was biopsy proven Nodular Sclerosing Hodgkin Lymphoma.



Definition:

 Hodgkin's lymphoma (HL) is characterized by Reed-Sternberg cells and accounts for ~1% of all cancers. HL spreads contiguously and predictably along lymphatic pathways and is curable in ~90% of cases, depending on its stage and sub-type.

Epidemiology:

 Bimodal distribution in the age of affected patients, with peaks in young adults (15-34 years) and older patients (>55 years).

Etiology:

- Unknown
- Up to 50% Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) (+)
- Increased risk with immunosuppression
- Genetics (Familial association, 2-9 x increased risk for siblings)
- Associated abnormalities (HIV infection)



Clinical presentation:

- Painless lymphadenopathy.
- Systemic symptoms (B symptoms) such as night sweats and weight loss.

Pathology:

 Presence of reed sternberg cells (type of B cell). These cells however only occupy a very small proportion (<5%) of the overall cell population of the affected lymph node. Contiguous spread is another feature. EBV infection is present in 40-80% depending on subtype.

Subtypes:

- Nodular Sclerosing: ≈70%
- Mixed cellularity: ≈25%
- Lymphocyte rich: 5% (best prognosis)
- Lymphocyte depleted: <5% (worst prognosis)



CT findings:

- Non-contrast CT:
 - Homogeneous lobulated round masses
 - Nodes isodense to muscle
 - Calcification uncommon except after treatment
- Contrast CT:
 - Variable enhancement
 - Necrosis may be seen as low-density center
- Nuclear Medicine findings:
 - FDG PET shows marked activity
 - Classic HL: High uptake
 - NLPHL: Moderate uptake
 - Gallium-67
 - Traditional modality to assess treatment response



Differential Diagnosis:

- Reactive lymph nodes
 - Not as large as HL nodes
 - Clinical history of upper respiratory tract infection
- Nodal differentiated Thyroid carcinoma
 - Favors lower neck and superior mediastinum
 - Not usually bulky
 - Cystic change
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in Lymph nodes
 - Imaging cannot distinguish HL and non-HL (NHL) nodes
 - NHL more frequently extranodal (30%)
- Nodal squamous cell carcinoma
 - Central nodal necrosis, extranodal spread
- Cat-scratch fever
- AIDS related lymphadenopathy



References:

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- 3. Hopper KD, Diehl LF, Lesar M et-al. Hodgkin disease: clinical utility of CT in initial staging and treatment. Radiology. 1988;169 (1): 17-22.
- 4. Delecluse HJ, Feederle R, O'Sullivan B et-al. Epstein Barr virusassociated tumours: an update for the attention of the working pathologist. J. Clin. Pathol. 2006;60 (12): 1358-64.

