

Clinical Image

Asymptomatic Woman with Abdominal Mass

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Clinical Image

A 55-year-old woman from Morocco was referred to our Internal Medicine department. She had a known personal history of vitiligo and a cholecystectomy 3 years earlier in her country of origin. Due to positive results for malignancy in the surgical specimen, a subsequent abdominal CT scan was performed, that was informed to be normal, after that she lost follow-up. Now she consulted for palpable abdominal mass (Figure 1) of about 18 months of evolution, painless and without weight loss, fever or other associated symptoms. In relation with laboratory results we can only remark a gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase level of 174 U/L, being the rest of the liver profile strictly normal. Carcinoembriogenic antigen level was 29.31 ng/ L with normal values of 19.9 carbohydrate, alpha-fetoprotein and beta-2-microglobulin. The CT scan shows the mass presented in (Figure 2) (16 cm × 11 cm), as well as another mass that affect the sternal body (Figure 3), the third and fourth right costal arches, as well as a right basal pulmonary nodule of 1 cm (Figure 4). The echo-guided biopsy of the mass was compatible with adenocarcinoma of biliary origin. The patient was transferred to by Palliative Care Unit to continue her medical assistance. We present the hypothesis that this patient disease was a result of a metastasis implanted in the abdominal wall at the time of previous cholecystectomy, with represents a non-usual clinical presentation.



Figure 1: Palpable abdominal mass

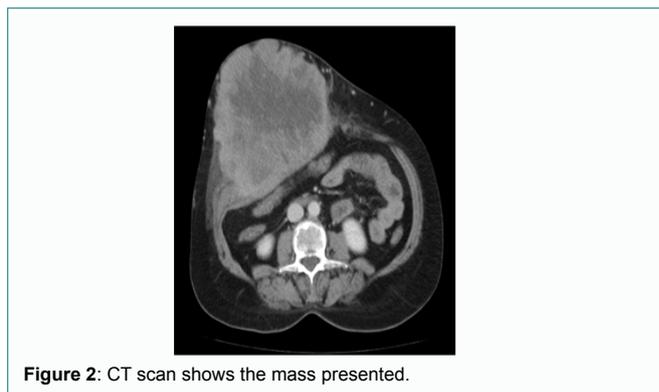


Figure 2: CT scan shows the mass presented.

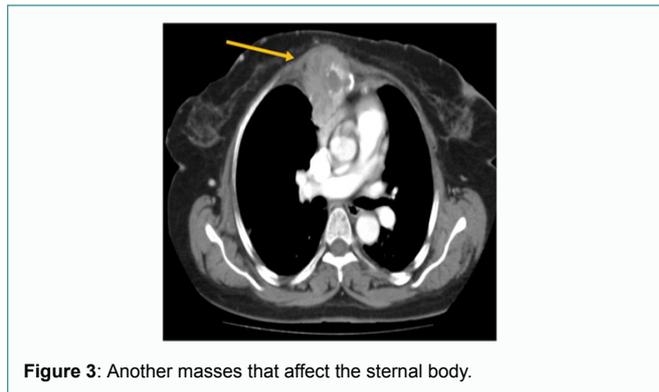


Figure 3: Another masses that affect the sternal body.

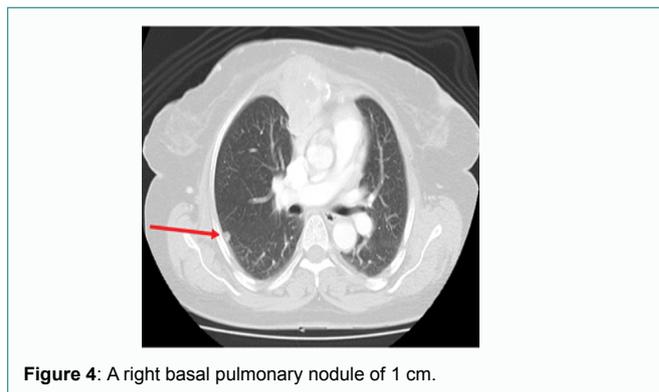


Figure 4: A right basal pulmonary nodule of 1 cm.

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Conclusion

This case highlights the importance of a close follow-up of our patients, since is mandatory to rule out malignancy in any surgical piece, irrespective of the clinical chart. Otherwise we want to remark the scarce analytical abnormalities we can expect to find even when disseminated neoplasms are affecting our patients.