

Epitrochlear Febrile Lymphadenopathy Secondary to *Bartonella Henselae*

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Abstract

Background: Isolated local epitrochlear lymphadenopathy is a rare pathology. Most commonly, it occurs in the context of systemic lymphadenopathy.

Aims: The purpose of this paper is to present the case of febrile epitrochlear lymphadenopathy caused by *Bartonella Henselae*.

Case Report: A 23-year-old male patient, presented himself to the Infectious Diseases Service with a fever of up to 38°C, lymphadenopathy of the epitrochlear area and axillary dexter of one-week progressive increase of these symptoms, reduced motion abilities of the right arm abduction, pain in this area, asthenia. In the epidemiological history, the patient reports of frequent contact with a cat, and

recently having a kitten at home. He does not recall of having had either any similar previous episodes or cat bites and scratches. Ultrasound of the soft tissues of the epitrochlear and axillary area shows a conglomeration of adenopathy with ruptured capsules in 1/3 distal of the right arm, hypoechoic adenopathy in the right axilla, 2.8 cm in diameter, and right subclavian adenopathy. Laboratory tests revealed a normal blood count, preserved renal and hepatic function, slightly positive antinuclear antibodies, and negative INF gamma. Serology for *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Brucella*, *Leishmania*, EBV, CMV and HIV resulted negative, but serology for *Bartonella Henselae* was IgG positive. Lymph node biopsy revealed an inflammatory reaction of the

granulomatous type, with granulomas composed of granulocytes, and histiocytes. Based on the clinical, epidemiological, laboratory and imaging data, the case was diagnosed/identified as CSD (cat scratch disease). The patient was treated with doxycycline and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (ibuprofen) and subsequently had a remarkably positive outcome.

Conclusions: The differential diagnosis of febrile lymphadenopathy represents a clinical challenge. The synthesis of clinical, epidemiological, laboratory-imaging, histological and therapeutic data is particularly important for its etiological evaluation.

Keywords: Epitrochlear Lymphadenopathy, CSD(Cat-scratch disease), B. Henselae