

Clinical Image

Open Access, Volume 3

Blue sea histiocytes detected in a patient with multiple myeloma

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Received: Nov 21, 2022

Accepted: Dec 22, 2022

Published: Dec 29, 2022

Archived: www.jcimcr.org

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DOI: www.doi.org/10.52768/2766-7820/2220

Clinical image description

A 54-year-old man was admitted to the hematology department for exploration of splenomegaly. The blood count showed an isolated normochromic normocytic anemia (9.9 g/dL). Bone marrow aspiration showed a rich marrow with an estimated 35% plasma cell infiltration made up of dystrophic plasma cells (plasma cells with flamed cytoplasm, centered nuclei, multinuclearity), making the diagnosis of multiple myeloma. However, associated with this plasma cell infiltration, the marrow was infiltrated by abnormal histiocytes (Figure 1): Large foamy cells, filled with numerous small vacuoles and navy blue histiocytes with dense and coarsely granular cytoplasm, raising the suspicion of a Niemann-Pick disease.

References

1. Portier E, Talbot A, Nguyen Y, et al. Multiple myeloma occurring in a case of Niemann-Pick disease Type B: A pathophysiological link?. *Br J Haematol.* 2022; 197: e53-e55.

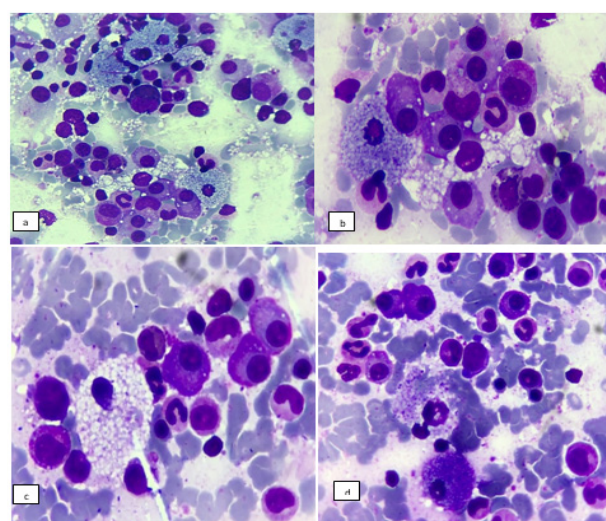


Figure 1: Medullary smear stained by May Grunwald Giemsa, seen at magnification (x 40(a); x100 (b,c,d)), showing the presence of sea blue histiocytes and dystrophic plasma cells.

Citation: Amina B, Wided M, Mondher K. Blue sea histiocytes detected in a patient with multiple myeloma. *J Clin Images Med Case Rep.* 2022; 3(12): 2220.