Clinical Image

A Rare Form of Mycobacterium Avium Infection in A Patient Treated for A Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

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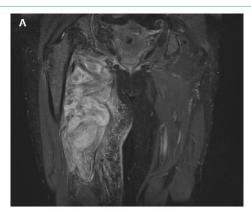[3]Infectious Disease and Intensive Care Unit, Rennes University Hospital, France
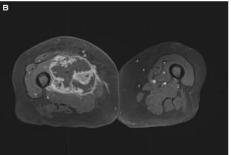[4]CIC INSERM 0203, Université Rennes 1, France

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A 73 years old woman, known for a chronic lymphocytic leukemia previously treated by 3 chemotherapy lines presented a painful swelling of the right lower limb after a fall. Physical examination did not find lymphadenopathy in an a febrile patient. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) revealed a collection of the postero-internal muscle compartment of the right thigh. The hypothesis of a hematoma was made and analgesics prescribed. Six months later, patient had persistent pain. The control MRI revealed a major increased in the volume of the collection measuring 10 x 8 x 20 cm with a fatty infiltration (Panel A and B). A surgical washing was performed. Culture grew Mycobacterium avium. Treatment consisted of oral antibiotics (clarithromycine, ethambutol and Rifabutine) and was followed by a rapid clinical improvement. Nontuberculous mycobacterial infections usually affected immunocompromised host. Diagnosis of this rare kind of infection is often difficult and requires clinical, radiological and microbiological expertise.

Panel A and B: Magnetic resonance imaging of the right thigh showing the voluminous abscess involving the internal compartment of the thigh.

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