Clinics in Surgery

Clinical Image
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Disseminated Cryptococcus Neoformans Infection with Liver Involvement in Patient with Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

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Clinical Image

A 30-year-old African American male presented with right upper abdominal pain and anorexia. Physical examination was unremarkable except for tender hepatomegaly. Laboratory findings revealed pancytopenia, HIV viral load of 34,020 copies/mL, CD4 count of 10/μL, normal liver enzymes and negative for Anti-HCV antibodies and HBV surface antigen. Imaging studies revealed hepatosplenomegaly, with a large area of ill-defined low attenuation of the right

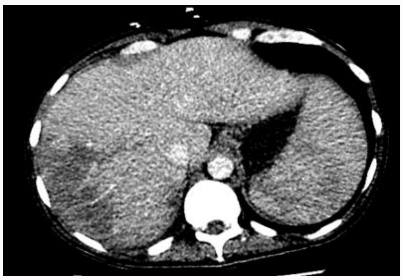

Figure 1: Computed Tomography (CT) of the abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast showed of ill-defined low attenuation of the right hepatic lobe.

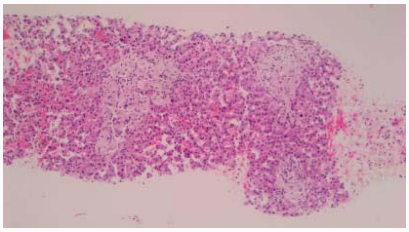

Figure 2: Liver parenchyma with non-necrotizing granulomata within the lobules (hematoxylin-eosin, original magnification x100).

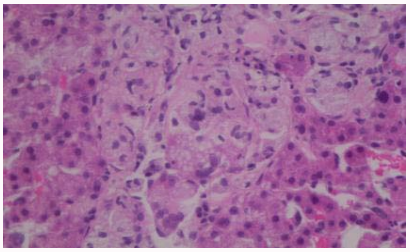

Figure 3: Non-necrotizing granuloma comprised of macrophages and multinucleate giant cells. Note how the macrophage is filled with numerous organisms. The organisms have a clear zone and occasional central nucleus (hematoxylin-eosin, original magnification x400).

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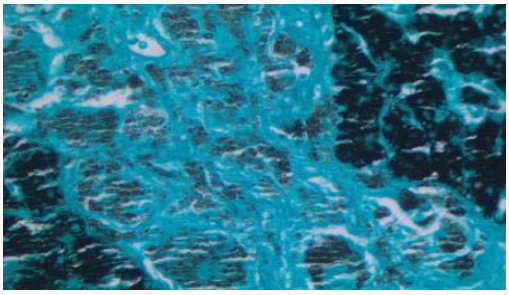

Figure 4: Gomori methenamine silver stains the cell walls and outlines the spherical encapsulated Cryptococcus neoformans organisms (GMS special stain, original magnification x400).

hepatic lobe (Figure 1). Liver tissue sampling showed cryptococcal granulomatous hepatitis (Figure 2-4) and the serum cryptococcal antigen was strongly positive of 1:5120. Malignancies and other opportunistic infections were excluded. The patient was treated with anti-retroviral therapy, liposomal Amphotericin-B and Flucytosine for four weeks and switched later to high-dose fluconazole with improved abdominal symptoms. In individuals with AIDS, the most common causes of liver diseases are opportunistic infections and AIDS-related neoplasms. Despite being rarely reported, Cryptococcal hepatic involvement requires early recognition, targeted diagnostics and appropriate treatment.