

Xanthogranulomatous endometritis: A rare histopathological finding

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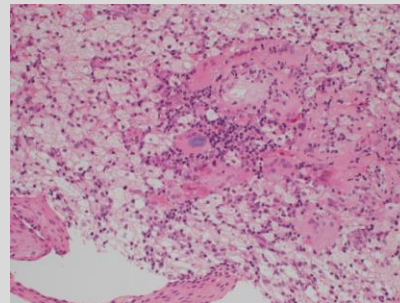
Background

Xanthogranulomatous inflammation is a specific histological diagnosis characterised by the presence of granular, eosinophilic PAS positive histiocytes, foamy macrophages and activated plasma cells, suppurative foci and haemorrhage. It was first described in 1916 by Schlagenhoufer where renal parenchyma was replaced with lipid-containing macrophages and occasional foam cells. Kunakemakom et al. described the first case involving the female genital tract in 1976 although infiltration of the endometrium with large amounts of foam cells has been described as early as 1961. Xanthogranulomatous endometritis (XGE) is a rare condition describing replacement of the endometrium by xanthogranulomatous inflammation with less than 30 cases reported in the literature. It has been documented in association with endometrial and cervical carcinoma, hematometra, infection, post radiation therapy, cervical stenosis and obstruction.

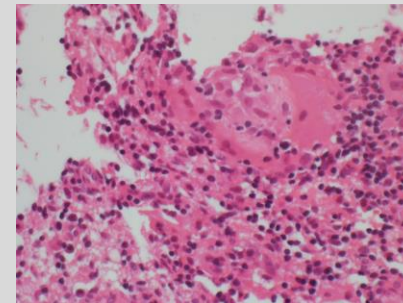
Case

We present the case of a 74 year old woman referred to the outpatient gynaecology clinic at a peripheral hospital with post-menopausal bleeding. Her medical history was significant for a ruptured diverticulum in 2019 with a Hartmann's procedure

and stoma placement. Examination revealed a stenosed cervix, through which a Pipelle was unable to be passed. A pelvic ultrasound revealed an anteverted uterus with an endometrial thickness of 12mm with cystic foci. Hysteroscopy revealed thickened, irregular endometrium along the posterior wall and subsequent endometrial curettings resulted in a diagnosis of XGE.

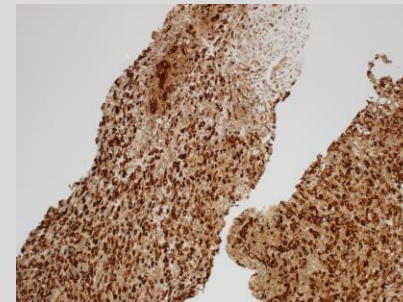


A. Giant cells and foam cells



B. Small granuloma

Figure A, B, C. Endometrial biopsy revealed diffuse sheets of foamy macrophages with collections of giant cells (A), haemosiderin macrophages and lymphocytes. Positive immunostaining for CD68 (C). Overall features are consistent with chronic xanthogranulomatous endometritis.



C. CD68 staining confirming inflammation with presence of macrophages

Discussion

XGE is a rare condition which, due to its ability to clinically and radiologically mimic endometrial cancer, is usually diagnosed at the time of hysterectomy. Because of the rarity of this finding and its association with malignancy, a second opinion from an anatomical pathologist was sought which confirmed the finding. Subsequent management of these patients is controversial, and the risk of malignancy remains unknown.

References

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