

A case of postrenal AKI due to retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy caused by Kikuchi disease

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Introduction: Kikuchi disease, also called Kikuchi histiocytic necrotizing lymphadenitis is a benign and self-limiting disease of unknown cause characterized by cervical lymphadenopathy and fever. However, Kikuchi disease involving retroperitoneal lymph nodes is rare. We report a case of postrenal AKI due to retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy caused by Kikuchi disease.

Case presentation: A 81-year-old man visited the emergency room complaining for dyspnea and generalized edema for 3 days. He also developed oliguria for the past a month. Initial laboratory tests showed azotemia (serum creatinine: 8.88 mg/dL, blood urea nitrogen: 66 mg/dL) and hyperkalemia (potassium: 6.9 mEq/L). Computed tomography showed bilateral hydronephrosis (Figure 1), irregular soft tissue density lesion and multiple enlarged lymph nodes in both inguinal, iliac, and para-aortic areas (Figure 2). Percutaneous nephrostomy and double-J ureteral stent insertion were performed for relief of bilateral obstructive uropathy. Urinary output increased to more than 4000 mL per day. A serum creatinine level had decreased from 8.88 mg/dL to 1.43 mg/dL within a week. During the hospitalization, he developed low-grade fever. A core-needle biopsy was performed for differential diagnosis of multiple lymphadenopathy and we confirmed the lesion as histiocytic necrotizing lymphadenitis, suggestive of Kikuchi disease (Figure 3). The conservative treatments without chemotherapies or immunosuppressants were performed. After that, double-J catheters were removed.

Conclusion: The extra-cervical lymph node involvement in Kikuchi disease is extremely unusual. Patients with Kikuchi disease may be often misdiagnosed as having lymphoma or retroperitoneal fibrosis, leading to treating with chemotherapy or immunosuppressants. Therefore, aggressive lymph node biopsy and pathologic diagnosis may be helpful to guide the treatment in the patient with retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy and hydronephrosis.

