A man with pancytopenia and liver complications

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CASE REPORT

A 79-year-old male presented with general weakness and tiredness. The further work-up yielded the diagnosis of pancytopenia, without signs of a myeloproliferative process or myelofibrosis. The pancytopenia was treated with androgen and later with blood transfusions. About one year later his condition deteriorated with fever, progressive jaundice and a clearly palpable liver, with a picture of multiple clarifications on the scintigraphy.

Shortly after, the pancytopenia worsened further (haemoglobin 2.2 mmol/l, leucocytes 1.7 x 10^9/l and thrombocytes 5 x 10^9/l). A haemorrhagic diathesis developed and the patient died.

The post-mortem examination revealed a liver of 3750 grams with a striking picture on macroscopy: tumourous red foci, leading to a browner macroscopic appearance. On microscopy this picture consisted of spaces filled with blood and separated by liver and Kuppfer cells (figures 1A and B).

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

See page 27 for the answer to this photo quiz.

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