

ANSWER TO PHOTO QUIZ (PAGE 175)

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM (OTHER CAUSES OF HEPATO-SPLENIC NODULES)

DIAGNOSIS

The final clinical diagnosis was hepato-splenic sarcoidosis (extrapulmonary disease). Because of the elevated liver transaminases, oral corticosteroid treatment was initiated at a dose of 0.5-1 mg/kg/day, with good tolerance and clinical evolution in the patient.

Sarcoidosis is a multisystem granulomatous disease of unknown aetiology, where diagnosed patients have pulmonary involvement in almost 90% of the cases.¹ Extrapulmonary involvement is common and all organs may be affected (especially the lymph nodes, eyes, joints, central nervous system), but it is rare to find isolated extrapulmonary disease (less than 10% of the patients).² Without any symptoms, it is even more difficult to make the diagnosis. The isolated splenic or hepatosplenic involvement is uncommon, and these patients may not

have any symptoms at all. In this situation it may be necessary to use multiple tests because there may be added difficulty in differentiating the lesions of other diseases such as lymphoma or metastasis³, or even reach splenectomy.⁴

REFERENCES

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