

An unusual cause of fever and cytopenia in multiple myeloma

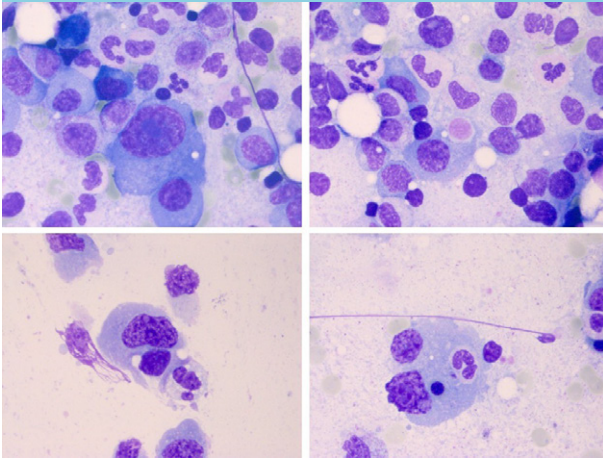
O.G.M. Bakker^{1*}, L.Th. Vlasveld²

¹Department of Internal Medicine, Haaglanden Medical Centre, the Hague, the Netherlands;

²Department of Haematology, Haaglanden Medical Centre, the Hague, the Netherlands.

*Corresponding author: olgabakker@gmail.com

Figure 1. Bone marrow aspirate showing neoplastic plasma cells



multiple myeloma for which he was treated at that time with melphalan, prednisolone and bortezomib, as fourth line chemotherapy.

According to the patient, he had no localizing complaints that indicate a focus of infection. Standard clinical evaluation did not reveal a site of infection. Laboratory results showed elevated inflammation parameters (C-reactive protein 186 mg/l) and a cytopenia (haemoglobin 7.8 g/dl, mean corpuscular volume 99 fl, leukocyte count $4.2 \times 10^9/l$, thrombocyte count $148 \times 10^9/l$). Blood cultures, virus serology (Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus and herpes simplex virus) and imaging with computed tomography, positron emission tomography-computed tomography and echocardiography revealed no focus of infection. Fever and cold shivers persisted despite broad spectrum antibiotics. Since the pancytopenia worsened despite a decrease of the Immunoglobulin A lambda paraprotein level, a bone marrow puncture was performed.

CASE REPORT

A 79-year-old man was admitted to the hospital complaining of fever for the past two weeks and cold shivers for the past one day. His medical history included

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

See page 194 for the answer to this photo quiz.