

A rare case of Wegener's disease presenting as bladder mass

A. Bakar¹⁻², S. Holz¹, L. Hourriez¹, T. Roumeguère², M. Naudin¹

¹ Urology Department, CHU Ambroise Paré, Mons

² Urology Department, University Clinics of Brussels, Erasme hospital



CLINICAL HISTORY

- We report the case of a 61-year-old male patient who experienced general deterioration, with weight loss and dry cough for several months. A chest X-ray was done showing two necrotic cavitary lesions of the left lung, highly suggestive of pulmonary tuberculosis.
- A first assessment was made including :
 - A bronchoscopy with bronchoscopic ultrasonography (alveolar lavage) : normal
 - The search for bacillus of Koch in the sputum was negative
 - The broncho alveolar lavage showed no evidence of malignancy.

Subsequently the patient was lost sight of.

- One year later, the patient presented with worsening respiratory complaints. Multiple investigations were done including an abdominal CT scan demonstrating the presence of a right intravesical necrotic mass measuring 33 mm in diameter compressing the ureteral orifice and responsible for a significant right uretero-hydronephrosis (Fig. 1), however there was no evidence of renal failure.



Fig 1: Abdominopelvic CT



Fig 2. Anatomopathological section demonstrating the characteristics of Wegener granulomatosis: vasculitis and granulomas accompanied by polynucleate giant cells. (Hematoxylin and eosin staining)

- This infiltrating ulcero-necrotic lesion was resected endoscopically
- Histological final diagnosis: Wegener granulomatosis. (fig.2)
- The presence of cytoplasmatic antineutrophilic antibodies (ANCA) supports the diagnosis.
- Treatment with methylprednisolone (2 mg / kg) and cyclophosphamide was initiated.
- Three months follow-up cystoscopy showed a complete disappearance of the initial lesion.

LITTERATURE REVIEW

- ✓ Wegener's disease is a necrotizing vasculitis of small vessels, reaching mainly the ENT and pulmonary spheres
- ✓ Its annual incidence is estimated between 5 and 10 cases per million inhabitants, with a prevalence of 50 to 90 cases per million in European countries.
- ✓ Renal impairment at the time of diagnosis varies between <20% to 80%, but can increase to > 90% during follow-up.
- ✓ Pauci-immune glomerulonephritis in Wegener's disease very often causes end-stage renal failure, with significant mortality, at around 40% at one year.
- ✓ Urological disorders such as urethral strictures, prostate and testicular lesions **remain very rare in the literature**. The bladder localization of Wegener granulomas is even more exceptional. To our knowledge, only two cases have been reported,