The “Sandwich Sign” in Mesenteric Lymphoma

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Key words: lymphoma, lymphadenopathy, lymph nodes, MRI

(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.54.4908)

A 50-year-old woman presented with epigastric discomfort. Laboratory analysis disclosed anemia and deranged liver function. Abdominal CT showed large soft tissue density lesions in the small bowel mesentery. MR imaging revealed massively enlarged mesenteric lymph nodes, lying within the mesenteric fat (Picture). The gigantic lymph nodes were seen encasing the mesenteric vessels, causing no significant luminal narrowing or obstruction. In mesenteric lymphoma, the “sandwich sign” refers to confluent mesenteric nodes that resemble two halves of a sandwich, enveloping the tubular mesenteric vessels and perivascular fat, similar to sandwich filling (1, 2). Laparotomy disclosed a bulky lymph node mass arising from the small bowel mesentery. Histology confirmed follicular B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma. This pattern of massive lymph node conglomeration is highly suggestive of malignancy. Bulky lymphadenopathy in the mesentery, growing around vessels and the bowel in the form of a “sandwich sign,” should thus raise strong suspicion of lymphoma.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References