



Suggestive Parvovirus B19 - Induced Erythroblasts Anomalies

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Clinical Image

A 70-year-old man with a 5-year history of chronic lymphocytic leukemia presented with sudden fatigue. Laboratory studies showed hemoglobin 9.7 g/dL, leukocytosis $32.680 \times 10^9/L$ (96% lymphocytes), platelets $5 \times 10^9/L$, reticulocytes $5 \times 10^9/L$. The blood film showed numerous mature lymphocytes, and a few large basophilic erythroblast (Figure 1a), some of them binucleated (1b). Bone marrow aspirates examination revealed the absence of regular erythroid precursors but a burst of enlarged proerythroblasts often gathered in small clusters with occasional bared nuclei (1c). Multiple nuclear inclusions were frequently observed. Parvovirus B19 serologies were negative for IgG and positive for IgM in favor of a recent contact. Treatment with intravenous immunoglobulin resulted in a reticulocyte count increase, followed by hemoglobin recovery. The observation in the bone marrow of a number of giant erythroblast with nuclei inclusions contrasting with the absence of more mature erythroid precursors is a key finding to suggest acute PV B19 infection.

Keywords: Parvovirus B19; Bone marrow; Erythroblasts

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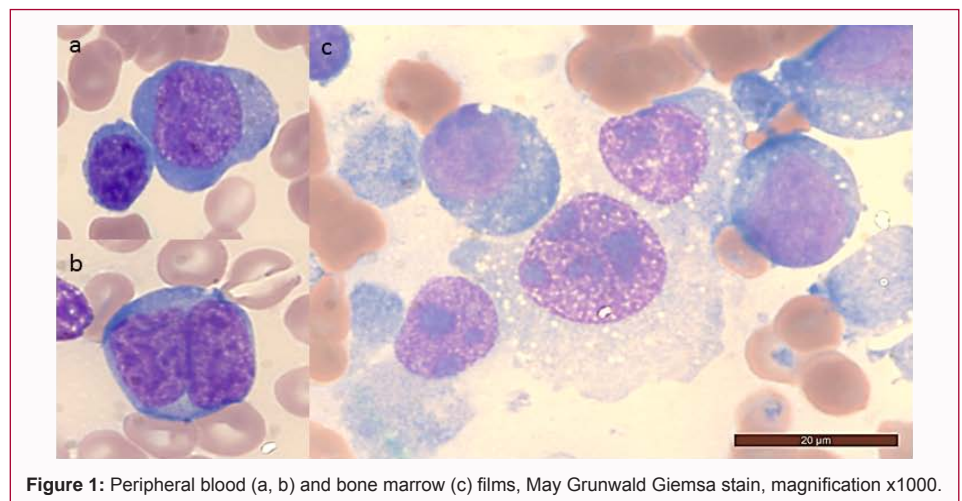


Figure 1: Peripheral blood (a, b) and bone marrow (c) films, May Grunwald Giemsa stain, magnification x1000.