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Case Report: Histiocytic Sarcoma

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Histiocytic sarcoma is an unusual malignancy characterised by a proliferation of cells showing features similar to those of mature tissue histiocytes. The majority of patients are adults, with a median age at presentation of 46 years, and there is a male preponderance.

Here we present a case of a 45-year-old gentleman presenting with bilateral axillary lymphadenopathy who initially caused some diagnostic difficulties – metastatic melanoma and a pro-drome of acute leukaemia were considered as possible differentials – before a diagnosis of histiocytic sarcoma was confirmed. He subsequently received radiotherapy to both axillae, before having multifocal disease confirmed on CT-PET and commencing systemic therapy in the form of CHOP. Lack of response led to further treatment being initiated with IVE chemotherapy, with a marked clinical improvement. The patient is now being considered for entry into the SUCCEED study, investigating the use of deforolimus (a tyrosine kinase inhibitor) in maintaining stable disease.

In this case report, I intend to consider the diagnostic difficulties, management and outcome. I will also review the literature relevant to standard practice in managing histiocytic sarcoma, and new developments in the treatment of soft tissue sarcomas.