



Hemepath Case 30: 23-Year-Old Female

HISTORY

A 23-year-old female presents with a 1-week history of fatigue, headache, and muscle pain. She also complains of anorexia and intermittent episodes of nausea and vomiting. Past medical history is unremarkable.

On physical examination, a single firm, painful and mobile lymph node is palpated in the posterior cervical region.

CBC

Hgb (g/L)	N
MCV	N
WBC	N
Plt	N

DESCRIPTION OF SLIDE

Lymph Node Biopsy

The biopsy shows a patchy lymph node with focal necrosis (see rectangle) containing apoptotic debris. In areas, single-cell necrosis (see circles) can be seen.

*** To see the slide annotations in Imagescope, click on VIEW, then ANNOTATIONS, and then on the "eye" icon adjacent to the word "Layers". In the "Layer Attributes" box, a brief description of the annotations is provided. You may also click on individual layer region (e.g. region 1) in the "Layer Regions" box to locate each annotation – this is especially helpful in identifying annotations when the slide is not zoomed in. ***

MORPHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS

Kikuchi-Fujimoto disease

DISCUSSION

Kikuchi-Fujimoto disease, also known as histiocytic necrotizing lymphadenitis, is a rare benign cause of (usually) painful lymphadenitis and generally resolves on its own. Although the pathogenesis is still unclear, it has been postulated that an infectious agent triggers autoimmune destruction by cytotoxic T-lymphocytes. Patients frequently present with flu-like symptoms (e.g. fatigue, fever, nausea and vomiting, myalgia and arthralgia) and posterior cervical lymphadenopathy. Lymph node biopsy reveals focal necrosis, along with findings of reactive histiocytes and T-cell immunoblasts.