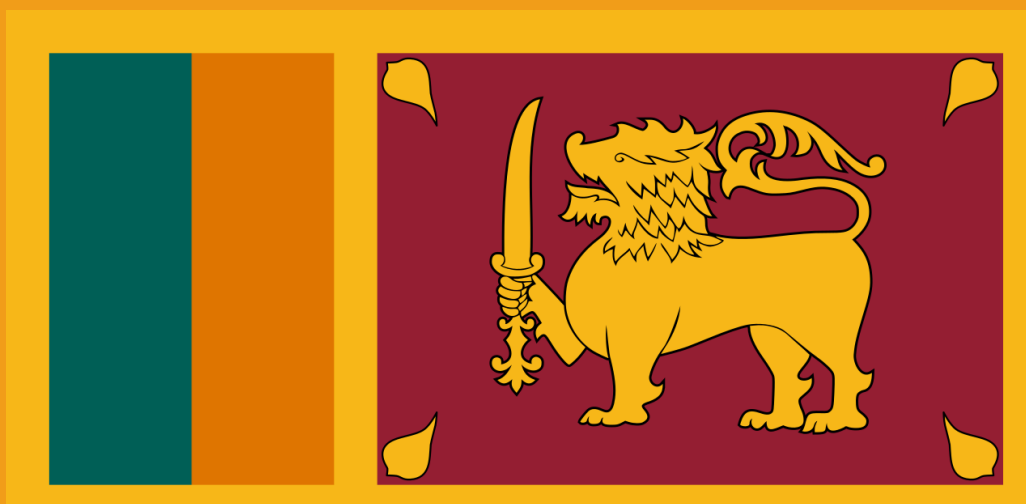




Primary peritoneal sarcoidosis – A rare and challenging diagnosis

V.J. Meegoda¹, K.G. Hewawitharana¹, K.V.H. Nimana¹, M A A M Jayawardane^{1, 2}

¹University professorial unit of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Colombo South Teaching Hospital., Colombo, Sri Lanka

²Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka



INTRODUCTION

- Sarcoidosis is a rare multisystemic inflammatory disorder that has a predilection toward lungs and lymph nodes.
- Diagnosis is challenging and depends on demonstrating non-caseating epithelioid granulomas with the exclusion of common granulomatous diseases.

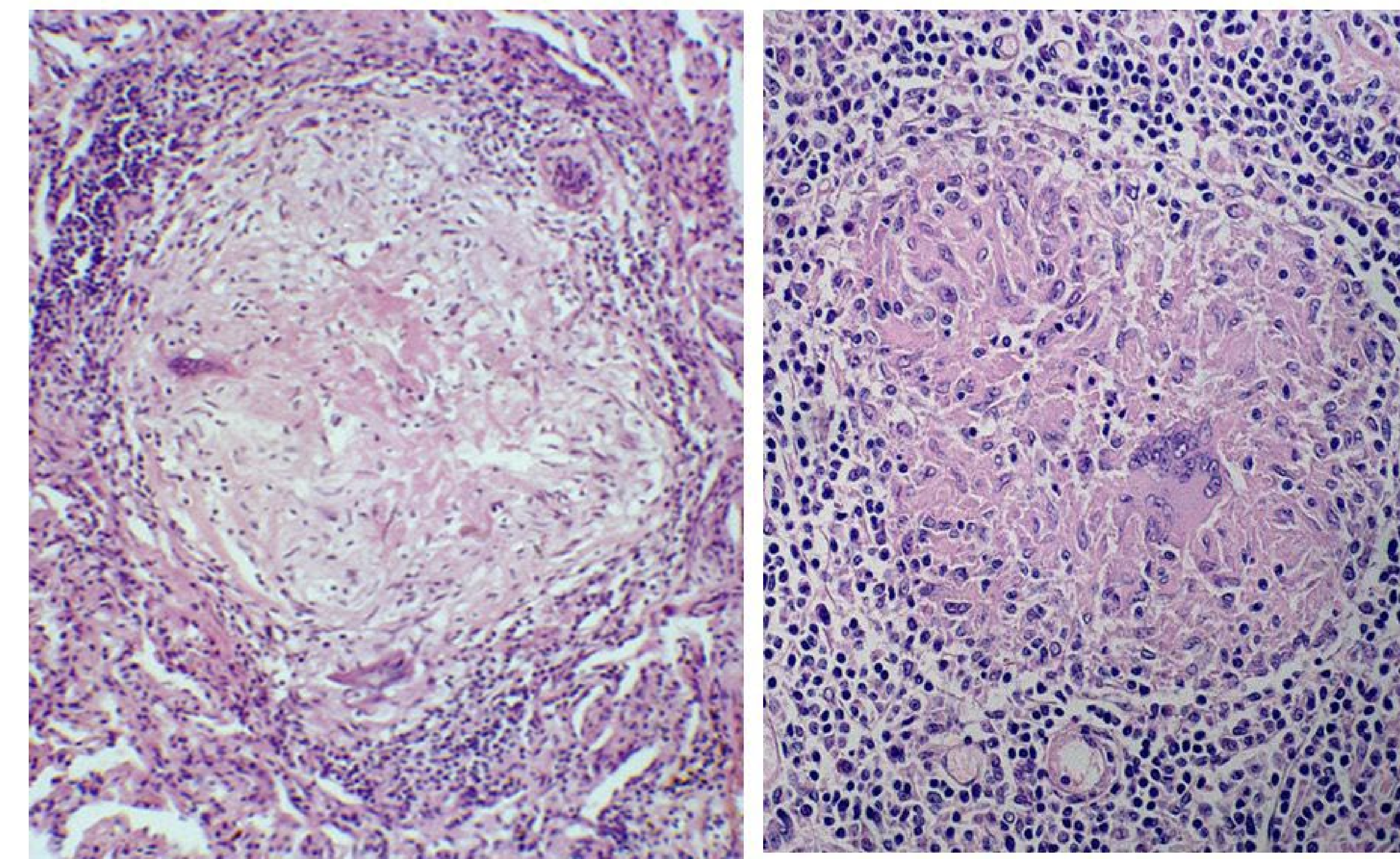
CASE PRESENTATION

- A 57-year-old postmenopausal female, while being evaluated for a cystocele, incidentally found to have ascites on USS along with elevated CA-125 levels.
- CECT didn't demonstrate adnexal masses nor enlarged lymph nodes.
- Although Mantoux was positive, HRCT-chest didn't demonstrate evidence TB or other lung pathology and sputum PCR for TB and culture was negative, thus leaving us at a diagnostic dilemma.
- An exploratory laparotomy was undertaken where multiple whitish tubercle-like lesions were found consistent with peritoneal tuberculosis and significant adhesions.

- Histo-pathological evaluation revealed multiple epithelioid cell granulomata, leaving us with the possibility of tuberculosis or sarcoidosis and excluding the diagnosis of peritoneal carcinomatosis.
- Given that TB is common in Sri Lanka, while being investigated the patient was started on the anti-TB regimen for peritoneal tuberculosis.
- However, ESR and CA-125 continued to rise after weeks of therapy, and a diagnosis of peritoneal sarcoidosis was made. She responded well to corticosteroids, thus confirming the diagnosis.

DISCUSSION

- Extrapulmonary involvement in sarcoidosis is considered rare, and primary peritoneal sarcoidosis is extremely uncommon with only a handful of reported cases.
- Given that TB is widely prevalent, an initial diagnosis of TB-peritonitis or widespread carcinomatosis, as suggested by elevated CA-125 and ascites, is justifiable, but sarcoidosis is a disease entity that should not be overlooked.
- Elevated ACE levels (sensitivity – 41.4%, specificity – 89.9%) are indicative of sarcoidosis.



“Caseating” and a “non-caseating” granuloma

Adapted from - <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4409/11/1/59>

CONCLUSION

- Peritoneal sarcoidosis should be considered as a differential diagnosis specially when histology demonstrates non-caseating epithelioid granulomas.

References

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