

CASE REPORT

COEXISTENCE OF BREAST CANCER METASTASES AND TUBERCULOSIS IN AXILLARY LYMPH NODES - A RARE ASSOCIATION AND REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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Abstract. The coexistence of metastatic breast cancer and tuberculosis in axillary lymph nodes is very rare. We present the case of a 57-year-old woman with multifocal invasive ductal breast carcinoma in whom the resected axillary nodes were found to harbor both metastatic cancer and tuberculous lymphadenitis. Thorough investigation revealed no evidence of primary tuberculosis elsewhere. A quantiFERON TB-Gold test was positive, indicating latent tuberculosis. The patient was treated with adjuvant chemotherapy antituberculous therapy, radiation and hormonal therapy with aromatase inhibitors. We conclude the possibility of coexistent latent tuberculosis should be kept in mind when granulomatous lesions are identified in axillary lymph nodes with metastatic breast cancer, especially in patients from endemic regions.

Key words: axillary lymph nodes, breast cancer, metastasis, granuloma, tuberculosis

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