Castleman disease Pathology Toolkit





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Pathology toolkit

Castleman disease (CD) background information	The role of the pathologist in CD diagnosis	CD histopathology
Exclusionary diseases	Diagnosis guidelines	Case studies



Pathology toolkit

Castleman disease (CD) background information	The role of the pathologist in CD diagnosis	Case study 1	× Case study 2
Exclusionary diseases	Diagnosis guideline	Case study 3 Case study 5	Case study 4 Case study 6





- Castleman disease is an umbrella term for a group of rare lymphoproliferative disorders that share a spectrum of histological features¹
- There are different clinical subtypes dependent on the localisation of the CD and the underlying aetiology¹:







 Castleman disease is an umbrella term for a group of rare lymphoproliferative disorders that share a spectrum of histological features¹

> UCD is CD that is localised to a single lymph node station. It is usually asymptomatic and picked up

 There asymptomatic and picked up CD a incidentally. Symptoms can arise due to the location and size of the tumour or, occasionally, patients will experience mild systemic symptoms. The treatment for UCD is usually resection of the affected node, which is often curative.¹

dependent on the localisation of the

Multicentric CD (MCD)





- Castleman disease is an umbrella term for a group of rare lymphoproliferative disorders that share a spectrum of histological features¹
- There are different clinical sub CD and the underlying aetiolog

Unicentric CD

(UCD)

Multicentric CD or MCD is CD that is found in multiple lymph node stations. Patients usually experience systemic inflammatory symptoms that can be episodic. Severe cytokine storms can cause life-threatening organ damage and even death.¹ MCD is further subdivided by aetiology¹:

Human herpesvirus-8 associated MCD

POEMS-associated MCD

Idiopathic MCD





- Castleman disease is an umbrella term for a group of rare lymphoproliferative disorders that share a spectrum of histological features¹
- There are different clinical sub CD and the underlying aetiolo



Multicentric CD or MCD is CD that is found in multiple lymph node stations. Patients usually experience systemic inflammatory symptoms that can be episodic. Severe cytokine storms can cause life-threatening organ damage and even death.

MCD is

Human herpesvirus-8 (HHV-8) MCD is associated with HHV-8 infection.¹

POEMS-associated MCD

Idiopathic MCD



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- Castleman disease is an umbrella term for a group of rare lymphoproliferative disorders that share a spectrum of histological features¹
- There are different clinical sub CD and the underlying aetiolo
 System
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Multicentric CD or MCD is CD that is found in multiple lymph r systemi Severe organ d MCD is Polyneuropathy, <u>o</u>rganomegaly, <u>e</u>ndocrinopathy, <u>m</u>onoclonal gammopathy, <u>s</u>kin changes (POEMS)-associated MCD is where a monoclonal plasma cell disorder, called POEMS, is associated with MCD-like features.¹

Idiopathic MCD



- Castleman disease is an umbrella term for a group of rare lymphoproliferative disorders that share a spectrum of histological features¹
- There are different clinical sub CD and the underlying aetiolo



Х Multice ultiple Idiopathic MCD (iMCD) refers to MCD of unknown aetiology. It is separated lymph r isodic. system into two types based on the Severe symptoms experienced by the patient: Ŋ iMCD TAFRO (thrombocytopaenia, organ c MCD is anasarca/ascites, reticulin fibrosis in the bone marrow, renal dysfunction, organomegaly) and iMCD-NOS (not otherwise specified). The former has a particularly severe disease course.¹





Assess the tissue sample for signs of CD histopathology

Discern the clinical subtype of CD





The pathological aspect of diagnosing CD



Identification of CD-related histopathological signs is a required aspect of diagnosis for all **Discern the clinical** clinical subtypes of CD.¹ subtype of CD

 \times

CD histopathology



The pathological aspect of diagnosing CD



Assess the tissue sample for signs of CD histopathology Identification of the clinical subtype of CD is necessary as the subtypes require different management.¹

Click to learn more about diagnosing this subtype.

UCD	HHV-8 MCD
POEMS MCD	iMCD





Identification of the clinical subtype of CD is necessary as the

Assess the tise sample for sign CD histopathol After a positive identification of CD features in the histopathology, a diagnosis of UCD can be reached from the **clinical information**. If the patient's records show that only 1 lymph node station is affected, then the diagnosis is UCD.¹

/CD



The pathological aspect of diagnosing CD



Assess the tissue sample for signs of CD histopathology



Identific

of After a positive identification of CD

su features in the histopathology, a diagnosis of HHV-8 MCD requires
CI further pathological and clinical information.

If the patient's records show that multiple lymph node stations are affected, then a diagnosis of MCD can be made.

Latent anti-nuclear antigen (LANA) staining for HHV-8 infection can be used to diagnose HHV8+ve MCD.¹





Assess the tise sample for sign CD histopathol

Identification of the clinical subtype of CD is passage to the After positive identification of CD $\,\times\,$ ent features on histopathology, Polyneuropathy, organomegaly, out endocrinopathy, monoclonal <u>)e.</u> gammopathy, skin changes (POEMS)associated MCD, a monoclonal plasma cell disorder, called POEMS can be confirmed using clinical features and histopathology of bone marrow biopsy demonstrating osteosclerosis and lambda-restricted plasmacytic cells.

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Assess the tissue sample for signs of CD histopathology Identification of the clinical subtype of CD is necessary as the

> After a positive identification of CD features in the histopathology, a diagnosis of **iMCD** requires further **laboratory** and **clinical** information, plus extensive **exclusion of other diseases**.¹

Return to main menu to learn more about diagnostic criteria and exclusionary diseases





Assess the tissue sample for signs of CD histopathology

Discern the clinical subtype of CD

An excisional biopsy is often required for a correct diagnosis. You may need to request one from the clinician.¹

A bone marrow sample is often advised when iMCD is suspected, to evaluate for malignancy, POEMS and iMCD findings. It might need to be requested from the clinician.¹



CD histopathology

- There are several histopathological subtypes of CD, which are associated with different sets of features. All CD histopathological variants can show hypervascularisation.¹
- An excisional biopsy is required to see the full architecture. Core samples are thought to give insufficient detail for diagnosis.¹
- Different nodes from the same patient may show different histopathological variants.

Hypervascular subtype Plasmacytic	Mixed
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Hypervascular lymph nodes will show a combination of the following features¹:

Hypervascularisation	Regressed germinal centers (GCs)	Prominent follicular dendritic cells (FDCs)	'Onion skinning'
'Lollipop sign'	Budding or twinning of follicles	FDC dysplasia	Sclerotic vessels

Click for more information

The term '**hyaline vascular**' is used to describe these features in **UCD**. The term '**hypervascular**' is used for the same set of features in **MCD**, with the distinction made as MCD lesions with this spectrum of histology do not tend to display FDC dysplasia or sclerotic vessels.¹





Hypervascularisation





These images show high- and low-power views of hypervascularisation in CD









This image shows regressed germinal centers. The BCL2 and IgD stains highlight the regressed GCs.





Prominent FDCs





This CD21 staining highlights extended FDC networks





Onion skinning







These images show '**onion skinning**' in the mantle zones. These are concentric rings of small lymphocytes around regressed GCs.

The image on the right shows **onion skinning** around a twinned GC.





Lollipop sign





Germinal centers showing the 'lollipop sign' of a radially penetrating vessel



Budding or twinning of follicles







Examples of 'budding' or 'twinning' of follicles, where 2 or more GCs are located in a single follicle



FDC dysplasia





Moderate ER staining ER in nuclei of FDCs.

Moderate to strong epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) expression in dysplastic FDCs.





Sclerotic vessels





This images shows sclerotic vessels in hypervascular lymph nodes







Plasmacytic lymph nodes will show a combination of the following features¹:

Sheet-like plasmacytosis	Increased numbers of follicles with hyperplastic GCs
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1. Fajgenbaum, D. et al. Blood 2017;129(12):1646–1657

Plasmacytosis





This image shows an infiltrate of plasma cells into the paracortical region



The right-hand side of this image shows a sheet of plasma cells in the interfollicular area





CD138 staining showing an infiltration of plasma cells in extralymphoid tissue



CD20 and CD3 staining highlighting the reduced numbers of T cells in the interfollicular area due to plasma cell infiltration





Increased numbers of follicles with hyperplastic GCs





These low-power images show lymph node specimens with many large, hyperplastic GCs. Some of the GCs also contain tingible body macrophages, creating a 'starry sky' appearance.





'Mixed' histopathology is seen in specimens that show histology in between the plasmacytic and hypervascular variants. They tend to show¹:

Plasmacytosis and regressed follicles



Regressed GCs with plasmacytosis





This image shows regressed follicles with plasmacytosis and onion skinning





- The international consensus diagnosis guidelines for iMCD were developed to aid clinicians and pathologists¹
- iMCD is primarily a disease of exclusion
- The guidelines were published in *Blood* in 2017¹

Major criteria	Minor la crite	boratory eria	Minor clini	cal criteria
Diagnosis guidelines summary diagram			e guideline ication	





There are <u>TWO</u> major criteria that must be fulfilled according to the international consensus diagnosis guidelines.¹ One of these requires the expertise of a pathologist and the other of a clinician:

- Pathologist: The excisional lymph node biopsy specimen must show histopathologic features consistent with iMCD.¹ Regressed germinal centers or plasmacytosis of a certain severity are required to fulfil the criteria (click below to learn more).¹
- Clinician: Multicentric lymphadenopathy enlarged lymph nodes (≥1cm in shortaxis diameter) in ≥2 lymph node stations (e.g. neck and armpit)¹





iMCD diagnosis - the minor laboratory criteria



To fulfil the minor diagnostic criteria, the patient must have at least two of the symptoms listed in the minor criteria, of which at least one must be a laboratory sign¹:

Criterion		Threshold
Laboratory*	Elevated CRP or ESR	>10 mg/L or >15 mm/h respectively**
	Anaemia	Haemoglobin <12.5 g/dL (males); <11.5 g/dL (females)
	Thrombocytopaenia <i>or</i> thrombocytosis	Platelet count <150 k/µL or >400 k/µL
	Hypoalbuminaemia	Albumin <3.5 g/dL
	Renal dysfunction or proteinuria	eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73m ² or total protein 150mg/24h or 10mg/100mL respectively
	Polyclonal hypergammaglobulinaemia	Total gamma globulin or immunoglobulin G >1700 mg/dL

*Laboratory cut-off thresholds are provided as guidance, but some variation between laboratories is acknowledged and local thresholds can be used

**CRP evaluation is mandatory and tracking is encouraged, but ESR is acceptable if CRP is not available



 $\label{eq:CRP} \mbox{CRP} = \mbox{C-reactive protein; ESR} = \mbox{erythrocyte sedimentation rate} \\ \mbox{eGFR} = \mbox{estimated glomerular filtration rate} \\$





To fulfil the minor diagnostic criteria, the patient must have at least two of the symptoms listed in the minor criteria, of which at least one must be a laboratory sign¹:

Criterion		Threshold	
Clinical Constitutional symptoms		Night sweats, fever >38°C, weight loss or fatigue (≥2 CTCAE lymphoma score for B-symptoms)	
Fluid	Fluid accumulation	Oedema, anasarca, ascites or pleural effusion	
	Eruptive cherry haemangiomatosis or violaceous papules		
Enlarged spleen and/or liver			
	Lymphocytic interstitial pneumonitis		

CTCAE = Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events




iMCD diagnosis guidelines: summary algorithm for assessment of lymph node with features of $\rm CD^1$







iMCD diagnosis – exclusionary diseases



The following diseases share symptoms with iMCD and must be excluded for an iMCD diagnosis¹:

Disease type	Disease	Usually diagnosed by clinician or pathologist?	Link to guidelines
Autoimmune	Rheumatoid arthritis	Clinician	ACR/EULAR 2010 guidelines
	Systemic lupus erythematosus	Clinician	SLICC 2012 guidelines
	Adult-onset Still's disease	Clinician	
	Autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome	Pathologist	NIH International Workshop guidelines
	Juvenile idiopathic arthritis	Clinician	
	IgG4-related disease	Pathologist	
Malignant/ lymphoproliferative disorders	Lymphoma	Pathologist	
	Multiple myeloma	Pathologist	IMWG 2014 guidelines
	Primary lymph node plasmacytoma	Pathologist	
	FDC sarcoma	Pathologist	
	POEMS	Clinician (unless bone marrow biopsy taken)	2019 diagnosis update
Infection-related disorders	HHV-8 infection	Pathologist	
	Clinical Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)- lymphoproliferative disorders	Pathologist	
	Inflammation and adenopathy caused by other uncontrolled infections	Clinician	







Clinical history

- 37-year-old male
- Intravenous drug user
- Skin lesions and generalised lymphadenopathy
- Inguinal lymph node excision





- Overall architecture is preserved
- Marked paracortical vascularity
- Hyperplastic follicles





Histopathology



- Hyperplastic reactive follicles with tingible body macrophages
- Well-defined mantle zones
- Paracortical expansion with haemorrhage
- Medullary sinuses obliterated (likely due to paracortical expansion)



- Vascular expansion in the follicles of small vessels with hyalinised walls
- The peri-follicular mantle zone has a frayed appearance with some clear cells





Histopathology



- The medullary cords are preserved
- There is an infiltrate of plasma cells into the paracortical region



- Spindle cell proliferation forming slitlike spaces filled with red blood cells
- This feature raises suspicion of vascular neoplasm sarcomas





Histopathology

Click here to view a video of pathologists speaking through this case study



- Plasmablasts have prominent, centrally located single nuclei
- They appear mostly in HHV8-positive MCD, where they mostly express IgM
- Potential differential diagnoses include other plasmablastic conditions, especially types of lymphoma



HHV-8 immunohistochemistry shows HHV8positive plasmablasts around a hyperplastic follicle





Histopathology

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HHV-8 immunohistochemistry shows HHV8-positive spindle cells in the interfollicular region







Histopathology

Kappa

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Polytypic light chain expression in interfollicular plasma cells indicates that they are reactive

Lambda light chain restriction in plasmablasts around a germinal center

Lambda

Kappa







Conclusion	
Summary of pathology	 Plasmablasts are positive for HHV8-LANA and are lambda light-chain restricted. Interfollicular plasma cells are polytypic for kappa and lambda. Intrasinusoidal vascular/spindle cell proliferation is positive for HHV8-LANA IgG4 and EBV negative (not shown) Patient confirmed to be HHV-8 positive
Differential diagnoses	 Non-specific lymphadenitis with polytypic plasmacytosis Autoimmune lymphadenitis Reactive follicular and paracortical hyperplasia Angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma Follicular dendritic cell sarcoma iMCD
Diagnosis	 HHV8-positive MCD, plasmacytic histopathological variant Kaposi sarcoma







Clinical history

- 20-year-old male with increasing cervical lymphadenopathy over the last 2 years, otherwise healthy
- Whole-body CT scan shows localised right-sided cervical lymphadenopathy, otherwise normal
- Bone marrow biopsy not performed
- Laboratory findings: normal peripheral blood counts and differential CRP, liver enzymes, LDH, β_2 -MG, total protein, electrolytes etc. in the normal range

- Excision of a cervical node 3.5 x 2.5cm
- Numerous follicles with
 expanded mantle zones
- Some regressed germinal centers
- Obliterated medullary sinuses





Histopathology



- Expanded mantle zones with concentrically arranged lymphocytes giving an 'onion skin' appearance
- Regressed germinal centers with some 'budding' or 'twinning' of follicles



- Twinned follicle with onion skinning
- Radiating vessel penetrating a germinal center – also known as the 'lollipop sign'





Histopathology



- Physiological distribution of CD20+ B cells and CD3+ T cells
- There are very few CD3+ cells in nodules in germinal centers due to the regression



- Concentrically arranged and condensed CD23 FDCs, with CD10+ germinal center cells
- Mantle cells are IgD+ and BCL2+





Histopathology

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There are clusters of CD123+ plasmacytoid cells in the interfollicular areas







Conclusion	
Summary of pathology	 Regressed germinal centers with 'onion skinning' Interfollicular proliferation of lymphocytes, numerous vessels with focal sclerosis and few plasma cells Medullary sinuses obliterated, no residual normal T-zones HHV-8 (LANA) and EBV (EBER) in situ hybridisation negative (not shown) No clonal B- or T- cell receptor rearrangements by PCR
Differential diagnoses	 Reactive lymph node with regressed germinal centers iMCD HHV-8 MCD
Diagnosis	UCD, hyaline vascular histopathological variant







Clinical history

- 20-year-old female
- 2005, 2006, 2007: recurrent Bell's palsy for 2 months with spontaneous resolution; 2013: chest pain, increasing in intensity over weeks.
- Severe microcytic anaemia (Hb 63 g/L), ESR: 128, CRP:111 mg/L, IgG: 40.1 g/L (elevated), IgA: 5.35g/L (elevated), IgM: 1.48 g/L, IgG4: 1.77 g/L (elevated).
- Imaging showed a large mass at the anterior aortic root causing aortic compression and pulmonary artery compression. Some mediastinal lymphadenopathy.
- Mini-thoracotomy with biopsy of mass.



- Soft tissue mass
- Follicles with regressive features with well-defined, not extended mantle zones
- Interfollicular diffuse plasma cell infiltrate
- Focal sclerotic bands





Histopathology

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- Regressed germinal center without expansion of the mantle zone
- The right-hand side shows sheet of plasma cells in the interfollicular region



Plasma cell infiltration into sclerotic tissue





Histopathology

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CD138 staining showing infiltrating plasma cells surrounding lymphoid tissue



Extensive expression of kappa light chain compared with lambda in the sheet-like plasma cells (ratio 5:1)





Histopathology



- IgG expression in sheet of plasma cells
- This pattern raises suspicion of CD or plasmacytoma

Slightly elevated IgG4 expression in the sheetlike plasma cells



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pathologists speaking through this case study





Conclusion	
Summary of pathology	 CD20+ B cells confined to the follicles with interspersed CD3+ T cells (not shown) Plasma cell immunophenotype: CD138+, kappa/lambda: 5/1, IgG+, IgG4+ (5–10%), IgA- (not shown), IgM- (not shown) HHV-8 and EBV negative (not shown)
Differential diagnoses	 Non-specific lymphadenitis with polytypic plasmacytosis Autoimmune lymphadenitis Lupus lymphadenitis Rheumatoid arthritis Plasmacytoma UCD
Diagnosis	 CD, plasma cell variant favoured Likely multicentric disease requiring clinical confirmation







Clinical history

- 48-year-old male
- 2004: peripheral oedema, progressive shortness of breath, peripheral neuropathy
- CT scans: splenomegaly and enlarged lymph nodes in peri-aortic, mesenteric, bilateral axillary and inguinal regions
- Serology: IgA/lambda paraprotein
- Imaging: lytic/sclerotic lesions in the vertebra, sacrum and iliac bones
- Bone marrow: a small population of IgA/lambda plasma cells

- Axillary lymph node biopsy
- Overall architecture is preserved
- Numerous follicles with regressive features and welldefined mantle zones





Histopathology

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- Numerous follicles with regressive features and well-defined mantle zones
- Interfollicular plasma cell infiltrate in a background of fine sclerosis

There is an excess of plasma cells expressing IgA/lambda





Conclusion	
Summary of pathology	 Physiological distribution of CD20+ B cells and CD3+ T cells (not shown) An excess of plasma cells expressing IgA/lambda HHV-8 and EBV negative (not shown) Bone marrow had a small population of IgA/lambda plasma cells (not shown)
Differential diagnoses	 Reactive lymph node with plasmacytosis Autoimmune lymphadenitis lgG4-related disease Lupus lymphadenitis Rheumatoid arthritis UCD, HHV-8 MCD, iMCD
Diagnosis	POEMS-associated MCD, plasmacytic variant







Clinical history

- 58-year-old male
- 2001: proteinuria, night sweats
- CT scans: hepatosplenomegaly, abdominal lymphadenopathy
- Serology: IgG 179g/L (elevated), IgA 7.86g/L (elevated), IgM 1.61g/dL (normal)



- Overall architecture is preserved
- Numerous follicles with regressive features and well-defined mantle zones. Some primary follicles, some big germinal centers with extended mantle zones.
- Interfollicular plasma cell aggregates
- Medullary sinuses open
- Some sclerosis





Histopathology









Histopathology



- CD21 stain showing extended FDC networks
- Polytypic interfollicular plasma cells, with a slight kappa excess, as expected in reactive plasma cells



- CD138 shows plasmacytosis in the bone marrow
- These cells are polytypic (not shown)





Conclusion		
Summary of pathology	 Physiological distribution of CD20+ B cells and CD3+ T cells (not shown) An excess of plasma cells expressing IgG (not shown) Polytypic interfollicular plasma cell expansion HHV-8 and EBV negative (not shown) 	
Differential diagnoses	Reactive lymph node with plasmacytosis	
Diagnosis	 iMCD, plasma cell variant 	







Clinical history

- 54-year-old male
- Abdominal discomfort, no systemic symptoms
- Abdominal mass on physical examination
- Imaging: 6cm mass located in the mesentery, well circumscribed, heterogeneous with cystic areas



- Three distinct components
- Peripheral hyalinising sclerosis
- Inner layer of lymphoid tissue reminiscent of CDHV with dysplastic FDCs
- Central area of high-grade sarcoma





Histopathology









Histopathology



- The sarcoma is positive for clusterin, podoplanin, CXCL13 and fascin
- The sarcoma is negative for S100, CD21, SMA, desmin, CD117, ALK (not shown)







Conclusion	
Summary of pathology	 Peripheral hyalinising sclerosis with an inner layer of lymphoid tissue with dysplastic FDCs, and central area of high-grade sarcoma The lymphoid component is composed of organised CD20+ B cells and CD3+ T cell areas (not shown) HHV-8 and EBV negative (not shown)
Differential diagnoses	 Gastrointestinal stromal tumour High-grade sarcoma, not otherwise specified Synovial sarcoma Follicular dendritic cell sarcoma
Diagnosis	 UCD, hyaline-vascular variant Follicular dendritic cell sarcoma



