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# A DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGE: CRYOGLOBULINEMIC VASCULITIS MANIFESTING WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE, MESENTERIC PANNICULITIS AND MYELODYSPLASIA

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**Introduction.** Mixed cryoglobulinemia is a systemic vasculitis frequently associated with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infection. Its clinical presentation is highly polymorphic, often leading to significant diagnostic delays when unusual organ involvement occurs.

**Description.** We report the case of an HCV-positive patient presenting with a complex multisystemic clinical picture. Initial evaluations revealed interstitial lung disease (ILD) and imaging findings consistent with mesenteric panniculitis (mesenterite). Concurrently, the patient exhibited persistent cytopenia; a bone marrow biopsy was performed, confirming the suspicion of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). Given the coexistence of HCV, pulmonary involvement, and abdominal inflammatory findings, a systemic vasculitis was suspected. Further laboratory testing confirmed the presence of circulating cryoglobulins and low complement levels. The final diagnosis was identified as HCV-related cryoglobulinemic vasculitis. This systemic process unified the seemingly disparate findings of ILD, mesenteric involvement, and the hematological abnormalities mimicking MDS.

**Conclusions.** This case highlights the "chameleonic" nature of cryoglobulinemia. It emphasizes the necessity of screening for cryoglobulins in HCV-positive patients presenting with atypical manifestations like interstitial pneumonia or mesenteric inflammation. Recognizing this association is crucial to initiating targeted antiviral and immunosuppressive therapy, potentially reversing multi-organ damage.