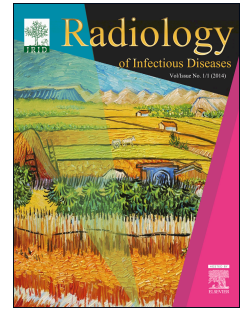


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Tuberculous Lymphadenitis in the Left Axillary Misdiagnosed as Metastasis: a Case Report and Review of Literature

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To understand the imaging demonstrations of the tuberculous (TB) lymphadenitis in axillary and distinguish it from the metastatic lymphadenopathy.

Methods: A 61-year-old Chinese woman's images were retrospectively after tuberculosis was verified by pathology. And literature about lymphadenopathy in axillary were retrospectively.

Results: Most of the lymph nodes (LN) which infected by Mycobacterium were swollen tend to round, hypoechoic, without obvious hilum, rich in blood flow with branch-like distribution. Most of them had clear border. But the lymph which had a collapse could have an illegible border.

Conclusion: The TB LNs could show some performances similar to metastasis such as hypoechoic, tending to round and rich in blood. But there are some differences between TB and metastatic LN. 1) The hypoechoic TB LNs were homogenous with clear border and smooth edge. The metastatic ones usually have unsmooth edge with spicular or process. 2) Some lymph nodes with collapse and strip shaped hyper echoic areas could be detected in TB patient, that could coexist with hypoechoic round LNs. 3) The distribution of the rich blood flow in the TB nodes was not distorted, but with branch-like shaped and distributed smoothly. It must be considered about some particular infections during the ultrasonic examinations of swelling LNs in axillary, especially there is no significant lump in the breasts.

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