

7. INTERNATIONAL MEDITERRANEAN

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION CONGRESS

19-20 April 2025
ANTALYA

EDITORS:

Prof. Dr. Sezai ERCİŞLİ
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CONGRESS TITLE

**7. INTERNATIONAL MEDITERRANEAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION CONGRESS**

DATE AND PLACE

19-20 APRIL 2025, ANTALYA/TURKEY

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19-20 APRIL 2025

ANTALYA

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19.04.2025
SATURDAY / 14:30-16:30

SESSION-2 HALL-6
MODERATOR: Prof. Dr. Gökçe DEMİR

AUTHORS	AFFILIATION	TOPIC TITLE
Prof. Dr. Gökçe DEMİR Akile EREN	Kırşehir Ahi Evran University	A Review On Behavioural Addiction And Nursing Practices
Akile EREN Prof. Dr. Gökçe DEMİR	Kırşehir Ahi Evran University	Pathological Skin Picking Disorder And Nursing Practices
Lamiya MAHMUDOVA Sibel GÜNEŞ BAĞIŞ Ayla EKER SARIBOYACI Tayfun ŞENGEL	Eskişehir Osmangazi University	Investigation of the immunomodulatory effects of preconditioned Wharton's gel-derived mesenchymal stem cells
Aytan İlham qızı Alışanlı	Baku State University	Characteristics Of Emotional Intelligence In Convicts Who Have Committed Crimes Against Life And Health
Hacı Mehmet ÇALIŞKAN Ömer JARADAT	Kırşehir Ahi Evran University, Kırşehir Training and Research Hospital	Atypical Unilateral Contrast-Induced Nephropathy In A Patient With Peritoneal Carcinomatosis: A Case Report
Hacı Mehmet ÇALIŞKAN	Kırşehir Ahi Evran University	Polyarteritis Nodosa Presenting As Splenic Infarction: Diagnostic Challenge
Assist. Prof. Dr. Enes DALMANOĞLU	Balıkesir University	A Case Of Brucellosis Presenting As A Thigh Abscess

DALAK İNFARKT İLE PRESENTE OLAN POLİARTERİTİS NODOZA: TANISAL ZORLUK

Hacı Mehmet ÇALIŞKAN

Kırşehir Ahi Evran University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine, 40100,
Merkez, Kırşehir, Türkiye

ORCID: 0000-0001-7370-420X

ÖZET

Poliarteritis nodoza (PAN), orta çaplı arterleri tutan, anevrizma, tromboz ve iskemik komplikasyonlara yol açan nadir bir sistemik vaskülitir. Bu olgu sunumunda, ani başlangıçlı sol üst ve orta karın ağrısı ile başvuran 36 yaşında bir erkek hasta tartışılmaktadır. İlk değerlendirmede stabil vital bulgular, lokalize hassasiyet ve elektrokardiyografide sinüs taşikardisi saptandı. Kontrastlı abdominal BT’de, çölyak arter bifurkasyonundan hepatik ve splenik arterlere uzanan diseksiyon ve splenik enfarkt görüldü. Ancak sonraki anjiyografi ve histopatolojik inceleme, hepatit B virüsü (HBV) ve antinötrofil sitoplazmik antikor (ANCA) negatifliğine rağmen PAN’ı doğruladı ve mikroanevrizmalar ile transmural enflamasyon gösterdi. Tedavide kortikosteroid (prednizon 1 mg/kg/gün), azatiopürin (2 mg/kg/gün) ve dual antiplatelet tedavi (aspirin ve klopidoğrel) ile semptomatik düzelme sağlandı. Olgu, PAN’ın tanısız zorluklarını, özellikle arteriyel diseksiyonu taklit edebilme özelliğini vurgulamakta ve yanlış tanıyı önlemek için multimodal görüntüleme (anjiyografi) ve histopatolojinin gerekliliğini ortaya koymaktadır. PAN’da gastrointestinal tutulum (%14–65) sıklıkla iskemi veya enfarkt şeklinde görülürken, splenik enfarkt nadirdir (%5–10). Şiddetli ağrıya rağmen peritonit bulgularının olmaması, PAN’ın subakut iskemik patolojisini yansıtmaktadır. İmmünosupresyon tedavinin temelini oluştururken, antiplatelet ajanlar trombotik komplikasyonlarda kullanılabilir. Bu vaka üç önemli ders sunmaktadır: PAN’ın diğer vasküler patolojileri taklit edebilmesi, geniş ayırıcı tanı gerektirir; BT tek başına yanıltıcı olabilir, anjiyografi tanıda altın standarttır; İmmünosupresyon ve antiplateletlerin kombine kullanımı, trombotik komplikasyonlarda sonuçları iyileştirebilir. PAN’ın değişken klinik tablolarına yönelik farkındalık, tanı gecikmelerini azaltmak ve prognozu iyileştirmek için kritik öneme sahiptir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Polyarteritis nodosa, vaskülit, splenik enfarkt

**POLYARTERITIS NODOSA PRESENTING AS SPLENIC INFARCTION:
DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGE****ABSTRACT**

Polyarteritis nodosa (PAN) is a rare systemic necrotizing vasculitis primarily affecting medium-sized arteries, leading to aneurysms, thrombosis, and ischemic complications. This case report describes a 36-year-old male presenting with sudden-onset left upper and mid-abdominal pain, initially suggestive of arterial dissection. Clinical evaluation revealed stable vital signs, localized tenderness, and sinus tachycardia on electrocardiogram. Contrast-enhanced abdominal CT showed dissection extending from the celiac artery bifurcation to hepatic and splenic arteries, with splenic infarction (Figure 1). However, subsequent angiography and histopathological analysis confirmed PAN, demonstrating microaneurysms and transmural inflammation, despite negative serology for hepatitis B virus (HBV) and antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA). Treatment with corticosteroids (prednisone 1 mg/kg/day), azathioprine (2 mg/kg/day), and dual antiplatelet therapy (aspirin and clopidogrel) led to symptomatic improvement and discharge. The case underscores PAN's diagnostic challenges, particularly its mimicry of arterial dissection, emphasizing the need for multimodal imaging (angiography) and histopathology to avoid misdiagnosis. Gastrointestinal involvement, seen in 14–65% of PAN cases, often manifests as ischemia or infarction, but splenic infarction remains rare (5–10%). The absence of peritoneal signs despite severe pain highlights PAN's subacute ischemic pathology. Immunosuppression remains the cornerstone of therapy, with antiplatelet agents reserved for thrombotic complications. This report highlights three key lessons: PAN's ability to mimic other vascular pathologies necessitates broad differential diagnoses; CT alone may be misleading, underscoring angiography's diagnostic supremacy; and tailored therapy combining immunosuppression and antiplatelets can optimize outcomes in thrombotic complications. Increased clinician awareness of PAN's varied presentations is critical to reduce diagnostic delays and improve prognosis.

Keywords: Polyarteritis nodosa, vasculitis, splenic infarction

1. INTRODUCTION

Polyarteritis nodosa (PAN) is a systemic necrotizing vasculitis affecting primarily medium arteries, leading to aneurysm, thrombosis, and tissue ischemia (Pagnoux et al., 2010). Described first in 1866, the yearly incidence of PAN has been estimated at 3–4.5 cases/million population, with a moderate male predominance (Lightfoot et al., 1990; Mohammad et al., 2007). The etiology is unknown, though associations with infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV), genetics, and immune

dysregulation have been postulated (Guillevin et al., 2011). PAN has a clinical picture of nonspecific constitutional symptoms (e.g., fever, weight loss) and organ-specific manifestations, such as skin lesions, neuropathy, renal ischemia, and gastrointestinal sequelae (Hernández-Rodríguez et al., 2014). Diagnosis relies on histopathological evidence of vasculitis or angiographic visualization of aneurysms and stenoses, supported by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria (Lightfoot et al., 1990). Early diagnosis is important because untreated PAN carries a high mortality rate from vascular events (Stone, 2002). The following case of PAN presenting as arterial dissection highlights the difficulty in diagnosis and the necessity of considering vasculitis in atypical presentations.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A 36-year-old male presented to the emergency department with sudden onset of left upper and mid-abdominal pain. Alert (Glasgow Coma Scale 15) with stable vital signs: blood pressure 150/90 mmHg, heart rate 92 bpm, respiratory rate 22/min, and oxygen saturation 96%. Local tenderness but no rebound or guarding on physical exam, and otherwise normal abdominal, cardiac, and neurologic exams. The electrocardiogram showed sinus tachycardia.

Contrast-enhanced CT abdomen revealed dissection from celiac artery bifurcation to the hepatic and splenic arteries with segmental spleen infarction (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Contrast-enhanced CT abdomen demonstrates dissection in the splenic arteries with segmental spleen infarction.



The patient was transferred to a tertiary care facility, and recurrence imaging excluded dissection. Serological tests for HBV, ANCA, and anti-nuclear antibodies were negative. In view of evidence from the angiogram of microaneurysm development and transmural inflammatory changes on biopsy of arteries, PAN with vasculitis was diagnosed. Treatment with corticosteroids (prednisone 1 mg/kg/day), azathioprine (2 mg/kg/day), aspirin (300 mg), and clopidogrel (75 mg) resulted in symptomatic improvement and discharge in stable condition.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

PAN is characterized by medium artery transmural inflammation with fibrinoid necrosis, aneurysm formation, and end-organ damage (De Virgilio et al., 2016). Three of ten items in the 1990 ACR criteria are required, such as weight loss, livedo reticularis, testicular pain, myalgias, neuropathy, hypertension, renal dysfunction, HBV seropositivity, defects on angiogram, or biopsy-proven vasculitis (Lightfoot et al., 1990). In the current scenario, although HBV was absent, angiography and clinical findings fulfilled diagnostic criteria. Gastrointestinal presentation occurs in 14–65% of PAN cases and typically occurs as perforation, mesenteric ischemia, or infarction (Gayraud et al., 2001). Splenic infarction, as in this case, is rare but in 5–10% of patients (Pagnoux, 2016). The absence of guarding or rebound tenderness in the presence of severe pain may be secondary to the subacute process of ischemic injury as opposed to acute surgical etiology. This example shows how PAN can be imitative of other vascular diseases. Initial CT findings in favor of dissection underline the similarity of imaging characteristics between vasculitis and arterial dissection. Dissection is rare in PAN but can occur as a consequence of vessel wall weakening secondary to inflammation (de Menthon & Mahr, 2011). Angiography is still the gold standard for discriminating aneurysms (PAN) from dissections, which do not have the typical "string of beads" appearance (Jennette et al., 2013). Treatment is corticosteroid immunosuppression and cyclophosphamide or azathioprine in extensive disease (Stone, 2002). In this patient, the addition of aspirin and clopidogrel was to prevent the thrombotic hazards of splenic infarct. Though not routinely recommended for PAN, antiplatelet therapy could be appropriate for thrombosis or high ischemic burden situations (De Virgilio et al., 2016).

This case highlights three important points: one, the danger of misdiagnosis due to the ability of PAN to mimic arterial dissection that requires keen differential diagnosis among those with catastrophic abdominal pain; two, limits of imaging only as CT findings could be misleading and highlight the paramount role of angiography and histopathology for diagnosis; three, importance

of individual therapy whereby combination of immunosuppression (i.e., corticosteroids and azathioprine) and antiplatelet agents (e.g., aspirin and clopidogrel) is seen to augment the outcome of thrombotic complication of PAN in particular instances, such as in splenic infarct or arterial ischemia (De Virgilio et al., 2016; Jennette et al., 2013).

CONCLUSIONS

PAN is a rare but potentially fatal vasculitis that requires high clinical suspicion, particularly in patients with atypical abdominal pain and vascular dysfunction. This case also underscores the challenge of distinguishing PAN from arterial dissection and the necessity for multimodal imaging and serologic testing. Immunosuppression as an early measure remains the mainstay of treatment, with adjunctive antiplatelet therapy reserved for carefully selected patients. Increased awareness of PAN's varied presentations can reduce delays in diagnosis and improve prognoses.

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OF PARTICIPATION

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