

B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia with bilateral ear involvement



Figure 1a: Right ear. Plum-colored nodules with partial destruction of the auricular cartilage



Figure 1b: Left ear. Multiple erythematous to violaceous nodules

A 66-year-old woman, presented with multiple, painless, plum-colored nodules in both ears for the past year, associated with partial destruction of the auricular cartilage [Figures 1a and b]. The histopathologic examination revealed a monomorphic lymphocyte infiltrate which expressed CD5, CD20, CD23, CD43 and was negative for CD3, CD10, cyclin D1, Bcl2 and Bcl6. The findings were compatible with B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL-B). The myelogram done showed a lymphocyte clone with a similar immunohistochemical profile. Pan-body CT-scan and blood tests were normal. This patient responded well to a local radiation therapy (total dose of 16 Gy) with resolution of the nodules. In the literature, bilateral ear involvement as an initial presentation of CLL-B, mimicking a red rosary or cauliflower, is exceptional, but characteristic.^{1,2}

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Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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