Cryptococcal Abscess — Unusual Presentation

A female aged 43 years was referred to a surgical unit with swelling of left inguinal region with dragging pain of one month duration. The primary care physicians expressed different opinions from hernia, cold abscess to granulomatous lesion. The patient was obese, non-diabetic with raised of erythrocyte sedimentation rate of 40 mm/1hr. The chest x-ray was normal Tuberculin test was non-reactive with 10 IU of PPD. The patient was taken for exploration under general anaesthesia on 4th day the surgeon planned for incision and drainage, a bloody, organised material was obtained, was sent for microbiological and histopathological examination, to every one’s surprise, the material on Gram staining contained budding yeast cells resembling Cryptococcus species, the specimen was subjected for fungal and bacterial culturing, on 5th day, the growth Cryptococcus neoformans was identified. The patient was subjected for screening for HIV1 and HIV2 antibodies proved negative, put on Amphoterecin B and the patient recovered well, was followed for a period of 3 years without any other manifestations suggestive of cryptococcosis. The case study proves simple investigations like Gram's staining and culture can bring a great light even in some clinical puzzels.

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