

Abstract

Kikuchi Fujimoto disease also known as necrotizing lymphadenitis is a benign, self-limiting condition with unknown etiology. Several differential diagnosis spring to mind when a patient presents with fever and enlarged lymph nodes. Kikuchi disease is however not at the top of this list and in most cases only considered when the others have been excluded. It presents a diagnostic challenge as it has rather nonspecific presentation.

A disease known to occur at a higher frequency among young adults of Asian descent and has wide ranging clinical manifestation – most notably a striking resemblance to systemic lupus erythematosus. Given the self-limiting nature, treatment is not usually warranted but in severe and persisting symptoms a trial of corticosteroids can be prescribed.

This case report describes a young previously healthy woman presenting with fever of unknown origin and cervical lymphadenopathy diagnosed to be having fever of Kikuchi Fujimoto disease.

It is important that the clinicians be aware of this disease entity so that a correct diagnosis can be made after excluding other causes which would prevent unnecessary treatment and will help to alleviate patient anxiety.

Keywords – Kikuchi disease, Sri Lanka, Kikuchi Fujimoto disease, Histiocytic necrotic lymphadenitis