Abstract

Introduction: Adult-onset Still's disease (AOSD) is a rare multisystemic autoinflammatory disorder with a broad spectrum of systemic manifestations. Characteristic presentation consists of a clinical triad of high-spiking fever, typical evanescent rash and persistent arthralgia. Although majority demonstrate cutaneous manifestations, atypical presentations have been reported.

Case presentation: An 18-year-old previously healthy male, presenting with a 2-week history of high-grade pyrexia, arthralgia and sore throat, with markedly elevated serum ferritin, neutrophilic leucocytosis and mild splenomegaly, was diagnosed as adult-onset Still's disease despite not demonstrating an evanescent rash.

Conclusions: Adult-onset Still's disease, should be considered in the differential diagnosis in cases of pyrexia of unknown origin, even without characteristic cutaneous manifestations. Laboratory biomarkers aid in timely diagnosis and initiation of appropriate therapy.