

Images in haematology

An elderly lady with “racoon eyes” and macroglossia

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Key words: AL amyloidosis, “racoon eyes”, macroglossia

Case history

A 67-year-old woman with multiple comorbidities presented with periorbital ecchymosis and macroglossia of 5 months duration (Figure 1). Tongue biopsy revealed Congo red positive amyloid deposits (Figure 2 and 3).

Her FBC and coagulation profile were normal. Blood picture showed marked rouleaux formation. Serum creatinine and serum calcium levels were normal with unremarkable skeletal survey by X-rays. Further imaging was not done due to lack of facilities. Serum protein electrophoresis with immunofixation revealed a monoclonal IgG kappa paraprotein of 19.9g/L (Figure 4). Serum free light chain assay was deranged with kappa/lambda ratio of 11.9. Bone marrow examination revealed a total of 12% plasma cells (Figure 5) of which the clonality could not be assessed due to unavailability of facilities.

Macroglossia with amyloid deposits, monoclonal gammopathy and absence of myeloma defining events confirmed the diagnosis as AL amyloidosis.



Figure 1. “Raccoon eyes” and macroglossia.

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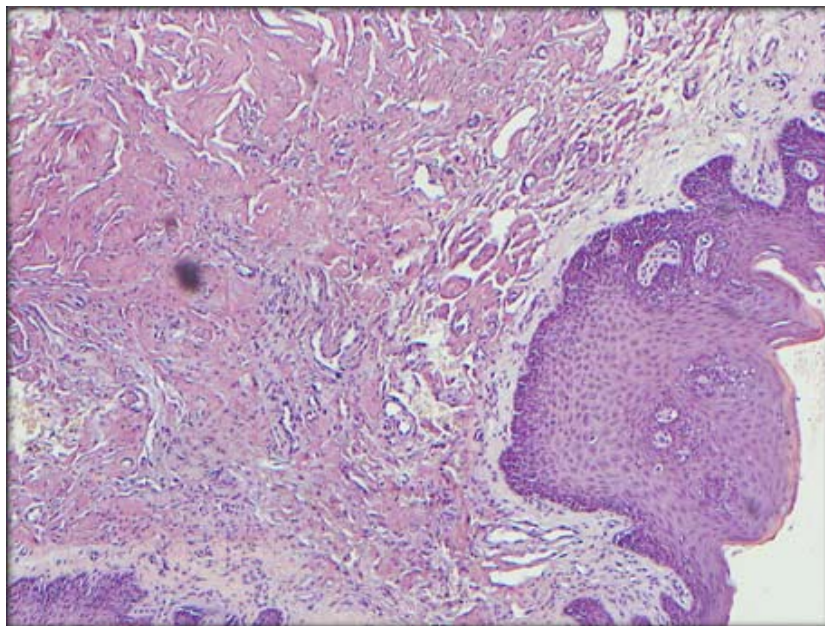


Figure 2. Tongue biopsy, Congo red stain x 200 showing amyloid deposits in salmon-pink colour.

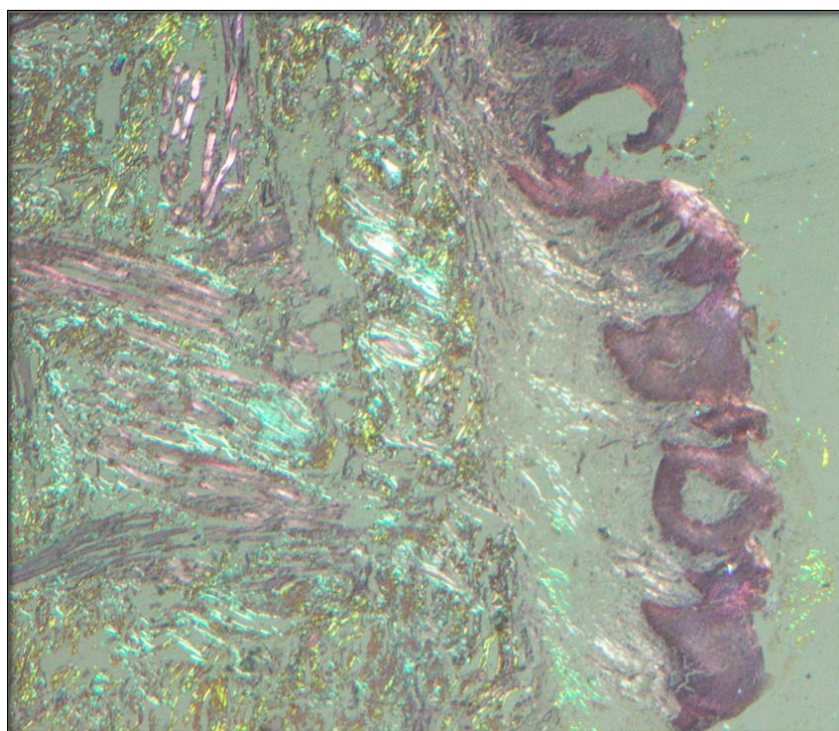


Figure 3. Tongue biopsy, Congo red stain x 200 under polarized light, amyloid deposits giving apple green birefringence.

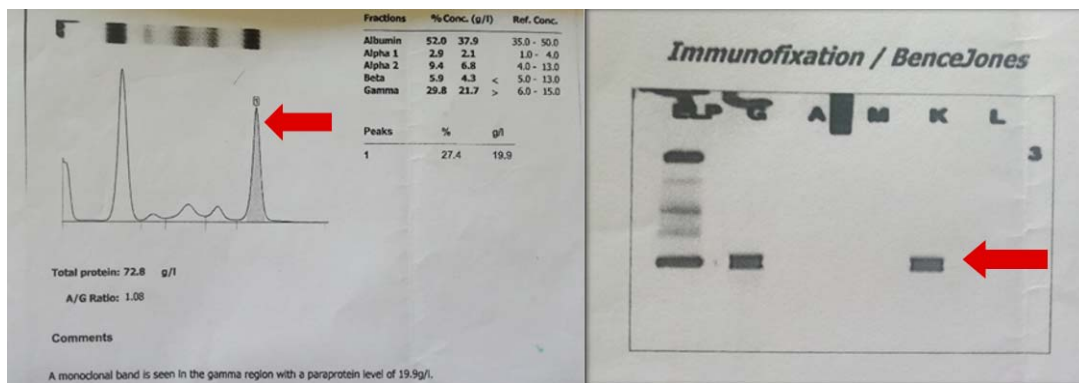


Figure 4. Serum protein electrophoresis and immunofixation showing IgG kappa monoclonal band.

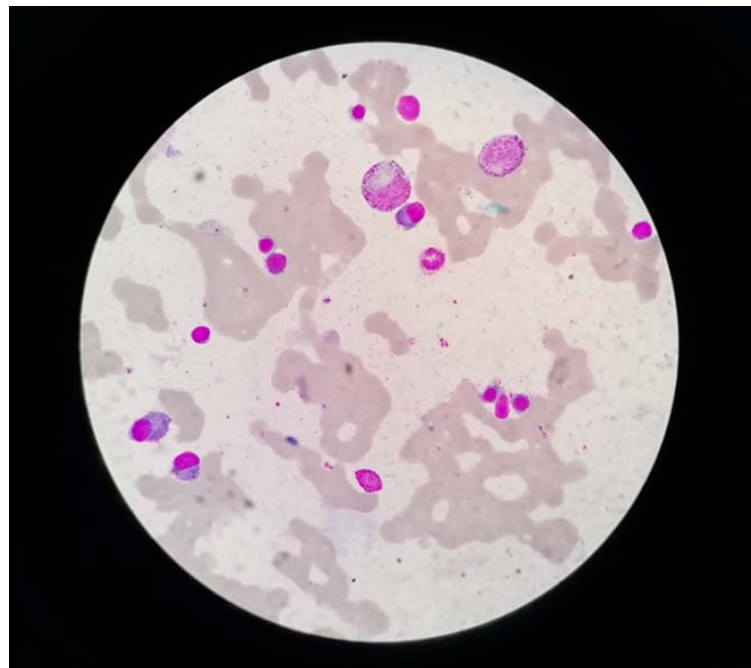


Figure 5. Bone marrow aspirate Leishman's stain × 100 showing plasma cells.

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