

SARCOIDOSIS IN A TUBERCULOSIS-ENDEMIC REGION: A CASE REPORT

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Sarcoidosis is a systemic granulomatous disease that primarily affects the lung and lymphatic systems of the body. It is most prevalent in Northern European countries but is less commonly reported in the Philippines. Most common extrapulmonary organs involved in sarcoidosis are the liver, eyes joints and heart with gastrointestinal involvement occurring in 0.1%-0.9%. We present an 82 year old Filipino male with fever, weight loss and abdominal lymphadenopathy, who was worked up to have non-caseating granulomas on lymph node biopsy pointing to a diagnosis of sarcoidosis. There has always been a belief, however, that sarcoidosis has been in some way related to tuberculosis

with several studies showing that tuberculosis may have a causal relationship with sarcoidosis and may even co-exist with each other. This hypothesized link makes it a challenge to diagnose and management sarcoidosis in a TB-endemic country and highlights the limitations of serological and molecular studies to differentiate between the two conditions. Our case raises a few intriguing questions on the relationship between sarcoidosis and tuberculosis, ultimately concluding that in a TB-endemic country, the differential diagnosis between tuberculosis and sarcoidosis is truly a challenge.

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