
Hodgkin's disease

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A 27-years-old woman with longstanding fever, night sweats, pruritus and weight loss was diagnosed as suffering from Hodgkin's disease. On physical examination there were several enlarged non-tender and mobile supraclavicular lymph nodes and a large, firm antero-sternal mass 6x8 cm (Panel A). A conventional chest X-ray showed a soft tissue mass anterior to the sternum with an irregular anterior sternal contour. The anterior mediastinum was widened. A computer tomography of the chest showed enlarged supraclavicular, paraaortic, retrocaval and axillar lymph nodes. There was severe destruction of the sternal body with a soft tissue mass protruding from the anterior mediastinum into the subcutaneous tissue of the anterior chest wall (Panel B). A second CT examination 4 months after chemotherapy showed the complete regression of the soft tissue mass, sclerosis of bone structure of the sternum and a significant reduction in the number and the size of the mediastinal lymph nodes. This case demonstrates a severe sternal body destructive process by a continuously expanding Hodgkin's lymphoma tumor.

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Panel A.

Panel B.
