

PRIMARY T-CELL LYMPHOMA OF THE SMALL INTESTINE PRESENTING AS PERFORATION PERITONITIS

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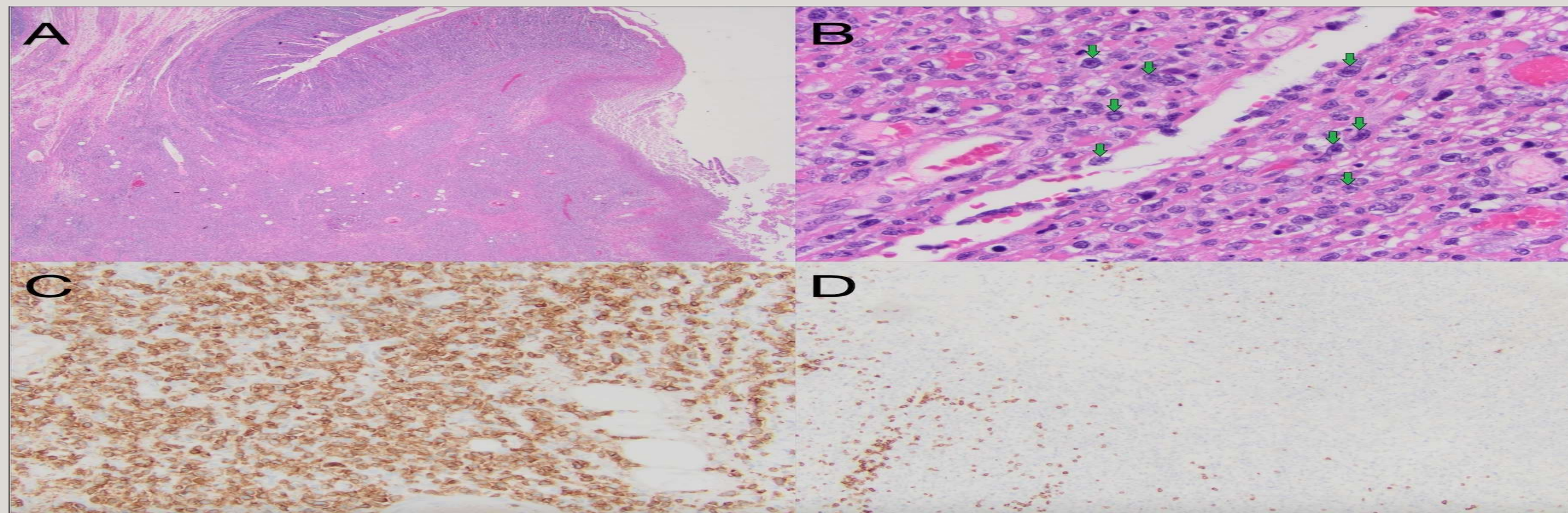
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INTRODUCTION

Intestinal T-cell lymphomas are rare primary T-cell lymphomas. The two most common types are enteropathy-associated T-cell lymphoma (EATL) and monomorphic epitheliotropic intestinal T-cell lymphoma (MEITL). MEITL was newly defined by the 2016 revision of the World Health Organization; it was previously known as EATL type II. EATL is associated with celiac disease whereas MEITL is not. Both types of lymphoma usually present with non-specific symptoms.

CASE DESCRIPTION/METHODS

We present the case of a 65-year-old female patient with no known relevant medical history presented with an acute onset of abdominal pain. X-ray showed pneumoperitoneum and the patient was taken to surgery. During surgery, a perforation in the small bowel was identified and a segment of the small bowel was resected. Histologic examination of the specimen showed full-thickness involvement by atypical medium-sized lymphoid cells with areas of necrosis. The overlying epithelium showed increased intraepithelial lymphocytes. Immunostains showed that the neoplastic cells are positive for CD2, CD3, and CD8 with aberrant loss of CD5 and CD7. The findings were most consistent with monomorphic epitheliotropic intestinal T-cell lymphoma. Histologic images with select immunostains are seen in the attached figure.



DISCUSSION

We present a rare case of intestinal T-cell lymphoma that was interestingly first diagnosed after it perforated the small bowel. MEITL carries an incidence of 0.25% of all malignant lymphomas and < 5% of all digestive tract malignant lymphomas. It is unfortunately a very aggressive malignancy that carries a poor prognosis and a high mortality rate. Oftentimes, MEITL also represents a diagnostic challenge. Careful histologic examination is key in diagnosing this entity of disease.