

An Atypical Presentation of Burkitt's Lymphoma

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INTRODUCTION: Burkitt's lymphoma is an aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that is uncommon in adults and has 3 subtypes. The immunodeficiency-associated subtype is primarily linked to HIV infection and accounts for 30-50% of HIV associated lymphomas. GI involvement is rarely seen in this subtype. We present a case of an atypical presentation of Burkitt's lymphoma in a patient with HIV.

CASE DESCRIPTION/METHODS: A 38-year-old man with a PMH of HIV presented with:

History

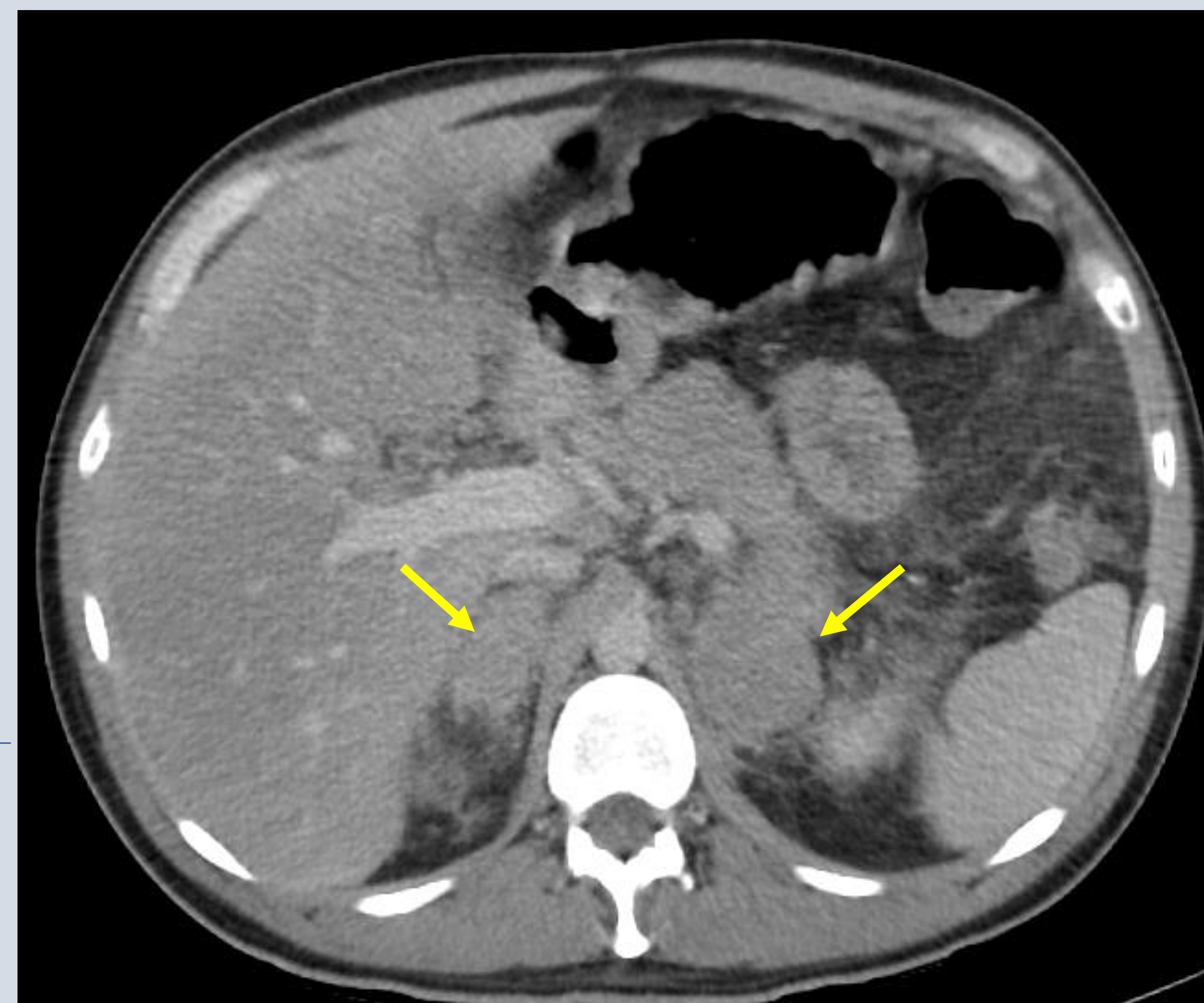
- Nausea, vomiting, bloating, non-bloody diarrhea, unintentional weight loss, fevers, chills, diaphoresis and decreased appetite for 1 month.

Physical exam

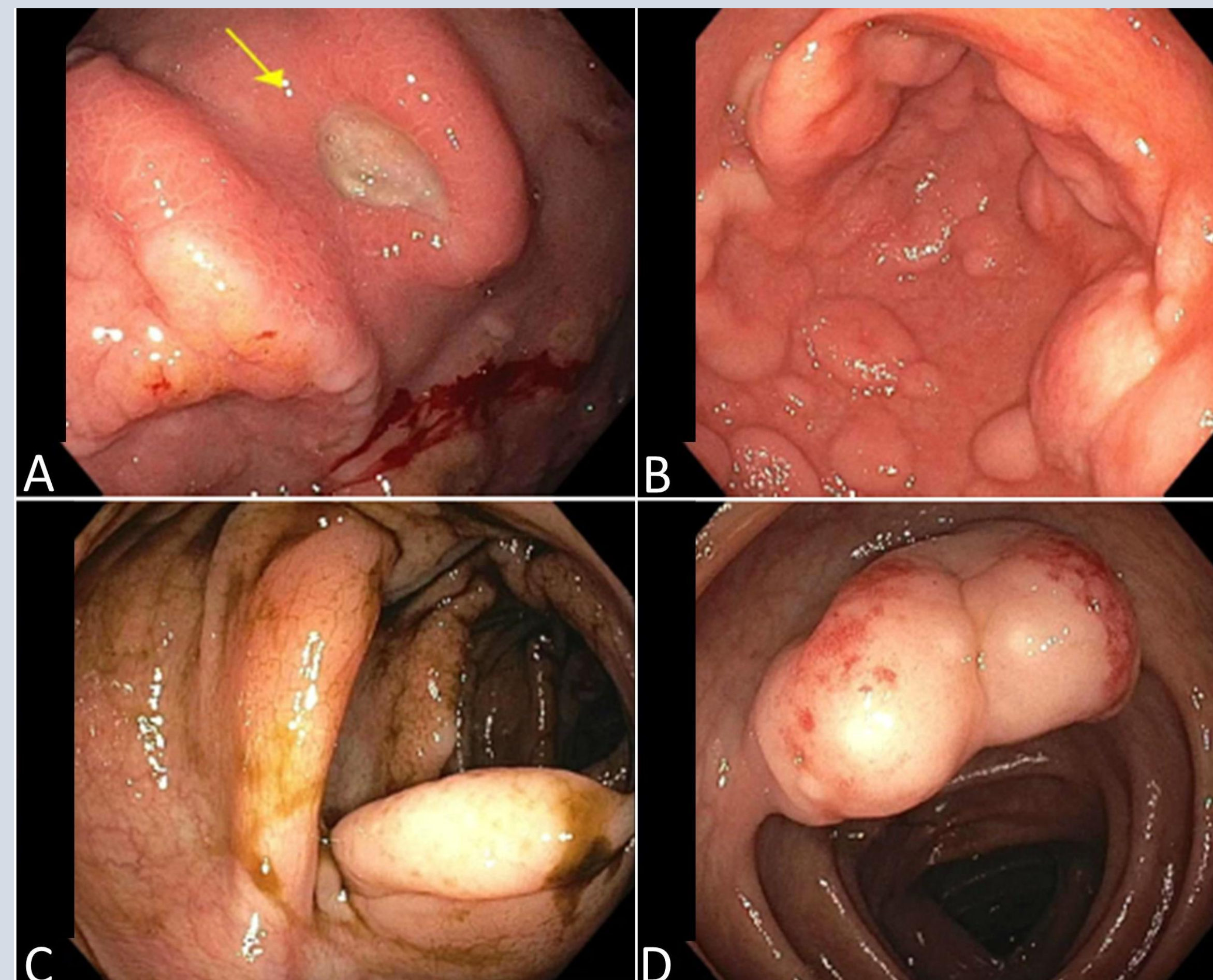
- Abdominal distention with ascites, hepatomegaly and bilateral lower extremity edema.

Labs

- AST of 67 U/L, ALT of 42 U/L, lactic acid of 3.7 mmol/L and LDH of 1,091 U/L.
- Absolute CD4 count of 242 /uL, HIV viral load of 2,256901 copies/mL



CT showed **extensive paraaortic, pericaval common and external iliac chain lymphadenopathy**; circumferential small bowel wall thickening and associated contrast enhancement suggesting inflammation.



Endoscopy and Colonoscopy findings. A – Gastric ulcer in body of the stomach. B – Papules and nodules and pre-pyloric stomach. C – Polypoid lesion in transverse colon. D – Mass in transverse colon.

Biopsy results revealed composite High-grade B-Cell Lymphoma (HBCL) with MYC+ Burkitt lymphoma.

CONCLUSION:

- Burkitt's lymphoma is a relatively rare malignancy in adults, accounting for about 1-5% of all non-Hodgkin's lymphomas in this population. It is associated with HIV infection in approximately 30-50% of cases.
- Mesenteric and retroperitoneal lymph node involvement is common.
- Based on our patient's vague initial presentation, the differential for his symptoms was initially very broad. After the CT finding of paraaortic and pericaval lymphadenopathy was known, the differential became more specific and endoscopic evaluation confirmed a diagnosis of Burkitt's lymphoma.

Suspect GI lymphoma when encountering para-vascular lymphadenopathy

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