Mesenteric Lymphadenitis caused by a Yersinia pseudotuberculosis infection

Objective
Yersinia pseudotuberculosis generally infects animals and rarely leads to a human disease. Looking at literature it mostly causes an acute terminal ileitis with mesenteric lymphadenitis in 6 to 18 year old boys. We report a case of a middle-aged man with mesenteric lymphadenitis due to Y. pseudotuberculosis infection mimic a lymphoma. The aim of this case report was to critically review the way of the diagnostic elaboration.

Methods
A critically review of the diagnostic steps of the case was done and compared to the current literature published.

Results
Ultrasound examination revealed a huge mesenteric lymphadenopathy in the right lower quadrant and wall thickening of the terminal ileum without a sign for bowl obstruction, suspecting lymphoma more than recurrence of seminoma, Crohns Disease or infection.

CT examination confirmed the findings in the ultrasound examination.

Laboratory showed elevated signs of inflammation (CRP 107 mg/l, leucocytes 18.6 G/l).

Last Colonoscopy was performed 2007 and showed a tubular adenoma.

Exploratory single port laparoscopy with partial lymphadenectomy and small intestinal resection was done due to the uncertain origin and dignity of the mesenteric tumour.

Histopathologic examination showed no malignancy with severe ulcerous mesenteric lymphadenitis, suggestive of Y. pseudotuberculosis infection.

Follow up
Confirmatory stool examination, serology and blood cultures could not verify the Y. pseudotuberculosis, as the diagnosis had not been considered prior to surgery. Antibiotic therapy was established postoperatively, serology and ultrasound control followed the inconspicuous further course.

Conclusion
Y. pseudotuberculosis infection is an unusual cause of human disease whose diagnosis may be missed or delayed because of its variable presentation. Although gastrointestinal involvement is common in kids and adolescent, it has to be kept in mind as one of the possible aetiologies for mesenteric lymphadenitis in adults. Therefore diagnostic steps have to be taken carefully.