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Breast-implant Related Silicone Lymphadenopathy: Asteroid Bodies do not Always Equal Sarcoidosis!
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Abstract

Silicone breast implants are frequently used for breast augmentation for cosmetic purposes, as well as for breast reconstruction after prophylactic or therapeutic mastectomy. Silicone lymphadenopathy is a well-known complication of silicone breast implants. Silicone droplets are present in the breast tissue through 'silicone bleeding' of the implant or because of implant rupture. These silicone particles can migrate from the breast to the regional lymph nodes. Silicone lymphadenopathy is caused by a substantial foreign body reaction against these silicone particles, and is frequently associated with asteroid body-containing multinucleated giant cells. Similar multinucleated giant cells are often observed in the capsule surrounding the silicone breast implant, and the number of associated asteroid bodies is highly variable. Here, we discuss a series of twelve women with breast implant-related asteroid bodies in their lymph nodes and/or breast tissue. This pictorial essay illustrates that the presence of asteroid bodies in a lymph node does not necessarily suggests a diagnosis of sarcoidosis. Clinical information about the patient having (or having had) silicone breast implants is often lacking. The encounter of asteroid body-containing giant cells in lymph node cytology, biopsies or resections should therefore lead to reflex clinical-pathological correlation, before establishing a final diagnosis. © The Author(s) 2022.

Author Keywords

asteroid body; breast implant; foreign body reaction; multinucleated giant cell; silicone lymphadenopathy

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