

Is it a sea-blue histiocyte?

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In the “Images in Hematology” section of the Journal, Andıç *et al.* [1] briefly presented sea-blue histiocytes in a 45-year-old woman with type B Niemann-Pick disease [2,3]. I believe the cell photographed by the authors is fairly typical for Niemann-Pick disease with few nuclear remnants and superimposed lymphocytes. In my opinion, it is not typical for sea-blue histiocytes.

We have seen sea-blue histiocyte cells, congenital and acquired, on several occasions [4] in bone marrow and the spleen, as well as in liver aspiration biopsies. Although a few granules may be seen rarely in a few sea-blue histiocytes, they are typically blue cells.

Ceroid content determination would be helpful in questionable cells.

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REPLY

Sea-blue histiocytes are a kind of macrophage with sea-blue granules containing lipofuscin or ceroid. In this case, ceroid content could not be measured because the test could not be performed in our hospital. The Pathology Department was consulted regarding these cells in the bone marrow aspiration sample and they were compared with the literature and concluded to be “sea-blue histiocytes”.

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