

Case 5

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Clinical Abstract:

A 64 year old woman presented with mid-back pain of two months duration. X-rays showed destruction of her 4th and 5th thoracic vertebra and revealed a mass of the right upper lobe of her lungs. Cytologic examination of bronchial washings showed an adenocarcinoma. She refused surgical treatment and was given X-ray treatment for eight days. One month later she began having difficulty climbing stairs and a week later was found to have a spastic paraparesis with bilateral Babinski signs and a mid-thoracic sensory level. A myelogram showed a partial block at the 5th thoracic vertebra. The next day she had a laminectomy and bilateral transversectomy and posterolateral decompression of her spinal cord. After surgery, her muscle strength improved and a week later she had Luque rod placement of her first 10 thoracic vertebrae and methacrylate fusion for stabilization. She died of acute myocardial infarction 12 days later at the physical therapy department while attempting to walk. Autopsy was not done.

Submitted is a hematoxylin and eosin-stained and an unstained slide from a mass in the spinal epidural space.

Points for discussion:

What are the inclusions?

Are they of more than historical importance?