

Dermatomyositis as Initial Presentation of dMMR Colorectal Cancer and its Treatment Dilemma

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Dermatomyositis is a rare rheumatologic condition (13:100,000 per year).

Features an erythematous rash affecting the face, upper chest and dorsal hands, accompanied by proximal muscle weakness.

Positive labs include CK, ANA, anti-RNP, TIF-1 gamma Ab, SSA-52 (Ro)

Dermatomyositis can be paraneoplastic in 7 to 32% of cases.

Associated malignancies include cervix, lung, ovary, pancreas, bladder and stomach. Colorectal cancer (CRC) is less commonly reported.

Laboratory Findings

Basic work-up &

Na – 128 (L)
Serum Cr – 0.27 (L)
K – 4.8 (nl)
WBC – 11.9 (H)
Hgb – 11.7 (nl)
PLT – 478 (nl)
CK – 239 (H)
Alk phos – 210 (H)
AST/ALT – 12 (nl)
CRP – 15 (nl) ESR – 26 (nl)
CEA – 1,445 (H)

Autoimmune work-up

ANA – neg (nl)
Anti-RNP Ab – 2.5 (H)
Anti-Smith Ab – <0.2 (nl)
Anti-DS-dna Ab – 1 (nl)
Anti-SSA/SSB Ab – 0.3, <0.2 (nl)

Myositis panel:
TIF-1 gamma Ab – high positive
SSA-52 (Ro) (ENA) IgG Ab – 62 (H)

Case Presentation

A 75-year-old woman developed an erythematous rash of the face and bilateral hands (fig. 1 & 2). The rash was treated with courses of oral steroids by her PCP with remission each time.

After 11 months of these symptoms, the patient was hospitalized for a GI bleed. Colonoscopy revealed a 5 cm mass in the ascending colon (fig. 3). Biopsy established dMMR (DNA mismatch repair) CRC and she underwent right hemicolectomy. She was discharged with oncology follow-up for staging.

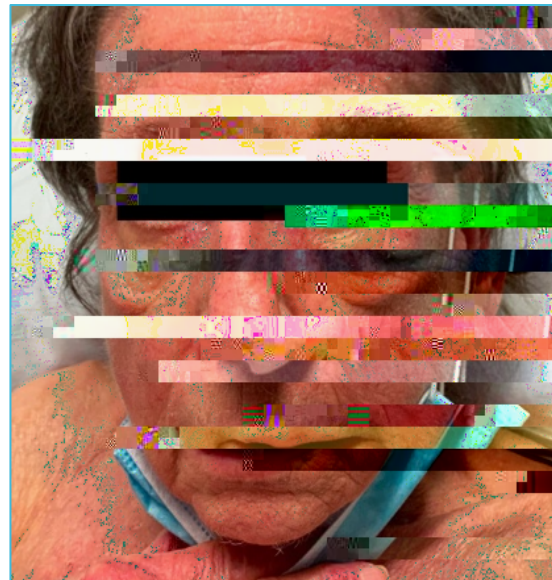


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

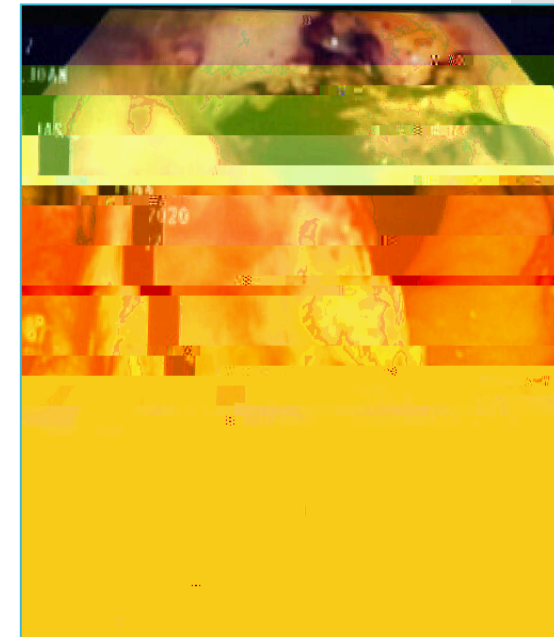


Fig. 3 %

Case Presentation

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Dermatomyositis may be the initial presentation of an underlying malignancy and delayed surveillance results in further disease progression.

Importance of age-appropriate malignancy screening in patients with new-onset dermatomyositis

Screening for CRC or breast cancer would have been appropriate for this patient. (Her last screenings were 12 years prior to presentation.)

Work-up for dermatomyositis includes CK, ANA, anti-RNP, and myositis panels. (p) -1.5 (ane) 2 (ane) 3 BDC 0.251 0.298 4scn 7 T2 1 Tf-2.541.8