Extranodal NK/T cell lymphoma, nasal type, is a rare lymphoid neoplasm of the nasal cavity or the paranasal sinuses. We present the autopsy findings in a patient who presented with disseminated disease after being in remission for more than 4 years.

**Background**

Extranodal NK/T cell lymphoma, nasal type, is a rare lymphoid neoplasm of the nasal cavity or the paranasal sinuses. We present the autopsy findings in a patient who presented with disseminated disease after being in remission for more than 4 years.

**Case Report**

A 34-year-old Hispanic woman presented with abdominal pain. The past medical history included a nasal cavity NK/T cell lymphoma, diagnosed four and a half years ago, status post chemotherapy and radiation therapy. She had multiple hospitalization over the last 2 years, with pancytopenia. Bone marrow biopsy, cerebrospinal fluid and lymph node biopsy performed during these admissions were negative for lymphoma. During her current admission, laboratory results revealed severe pancytopenia and disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). RT-PCR for Epstein-Barr virus DNA revealed very high copies. The patient was managed with multiple units of platelet transfusions and supportive therapy. However, she died after 11 days of hospital stay. A complete autopsy was performed. The most significant finding was multi-organ involvement by relapsed extranodal NK/T cell lymphoma, nasal type, involving multiple organ systems (mediastinal and hilar lymph nodes, liver, spleen, epicardium, pancreas, uterus, and bone marrow). Sections from the lymph nodes showed diffuse effacement by medium to large sized atypical lymphocytes, associated with extensive areas of necrosis and prominent apoptosis. CD3 and CD56, revealed diffuse and strong reactivity. In situ hybridization for Epstein-Barr virus encoding region (EBER) showed positive results. The extranodal sites revealed patchy involvement by neoplastic cells.

We present a unique case of disseminated extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma in a patient who was in long term remission, to highlight the unpredictable disease. Such multi-organ involvement findings may be due to either rapid fulminant recurrence of the lymphoma, or patchy nature of the disease, or both.

**References**