

# Anaplastic large cell lymphoma

Anaplastic large-cell lymphoma (ALCL) is an uncommon type of [T-cell lymphoma](#) first reported by Stein et al <sup>1)</sup> It is characterized by large pleomorphic [CD30](#) (Ki-1)-expressing lymphoid blasts containing horseshoe-shaped nuclei <sup>2)</sup>.

## Classification

Currently, the fourth edition of the [WHO classification of tumors of hematopoietic and lymphoid tissues](#), published in 2008, divides systemic [Anaplastic large cell lymphomas](#) into two entities: [anaplastic lymphoma kinase \(ALK\)-positive](#) and [ALK-negative](#).

## Outcome

Some cases lack ALK translocation correlated with a more unfavorable prognosis <sup>3)</sup>.

see also [Primary central nervous system ALK-positive anaplastic large cell lymphoma](#)

see also [Primary central nervous system ALK-negative anaplastic large cell lymphoma](#)

## Case reports

A case of ALCL-ALK(-) that presented as a progressive, enlarged, swollen mass on the scalp after an acute head injury in an 84-year-old man. Neither palpable lymph nodes nor any B symptoms were noted at admission. Brain computed tomography showed a hematoma in the right posterior occipital region of the scalp as the only remarkable finding. Debridement and biopsy were performed. Histologic and immunohistochemical analysis of the specimen revealed an ALCL-ALK(-) of the scalp. The lymphoma was resistant to bendamustine-containing chemotherapies, ultimately leading to the patient's death within 2 months.

This case report highlights the importance of recognizing the possibility of an ALCL presenting as a focal inflammatory swelling mass on the scalp <sup>4)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Stein H, Mason DY, Gerdes J, O'Connor N, Wainscoat J, Pallesen G, Gatter K, Falini B, Delsol G, Lemke H, et al. The expression of the Hodgkin's disease-associated antigen Ki-1 in reactive and neoplastic lymphoid tissue: evidence that Reed-Sternberg cells and histiocytic malignancies are derived from activated lymphoid cells. *Blood*. 1985 Oct;66(4):848-58. PMID: 3876124.

<sup>2)</sup>

Jaffe ES, Harris NL, Stein H, Vardiman JW. Anaplastic large cell lymphoma. In: Jaffe ES, Harris NL, Stein H, Vardiman JW, et al., editors. *Pathology and Genetics: Tumors of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues*. IARC Press; Lyon: 2001. pp. 230-235.

<sup>3)</sup>

Sugino T, Mikami T, Akiyama Y, Wanibuchi M, Hasegawa T, Mikuni N. Primary central nervous system anaplastic large-cell lymphoma mimicking lymphomatosis cerebri. *Brain Tumor Pathol*. 2013

Jan;30(1):61-5. doi: 10.1007/s10014-012-0094-0. Epub 2012 Mar 18. PubMed PMID: 22426596.

4)

Yeung CY, Hong KT, Chiang CP, Chen YH, Ma HI, Tsai TH. ALK-negative anaplastic large-cell lymphoma presenting as a scalp hematoma after an acute head injury-A case report and literature review. World Neurosurg. 2015 Nov 23. pii: S1878-8750(15)01540-5. doi: 10.1016/j.wneu.2015.11.020. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26615790.

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