



A Rare Rendezvous: Otorhinolaryngology Manifestations of COVID-19-Associated Dermatomyositis

Drew Gottman, BSc; Michaele Francesco Corbisiero, MSc, MPH; Jaime Baker, MD

Introduction

- Dermatomyositis (DM) is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by skin rash and muscle weakness.
- Strongly linked to malignancies, particularly in adults.
- Recent studies indicate a possible association between COVID-19 and DM.
- This case discusses DM as a prodromal sign of non-small cell lung cancer in a patient with a recent history of COVID-19.

Case Description

1st Visit

- 73-year-old male, recent COVID-19 history.
- Presented with facial swelling, rash, and deltoid pain.
- CT scan showed cervical lymphadenopathy; no mass found.
- Symptoms improved with dexamethasone

2nd Visit

- Returned one month later with relapsed symptoms.
- Confirmed DM diagnosis via deltoid muscle biopsy.
- Biopsy shows metastatic non-small cell carcinoma.

3rd Visit

- Progressive dysphagia, weight loss, and additional symptoms.
- Piriform sinus mass identified and confirmed as non-small cell carcinoma.
- Underwent surgical treatment and adjuvant chemoradiation.

Imaging

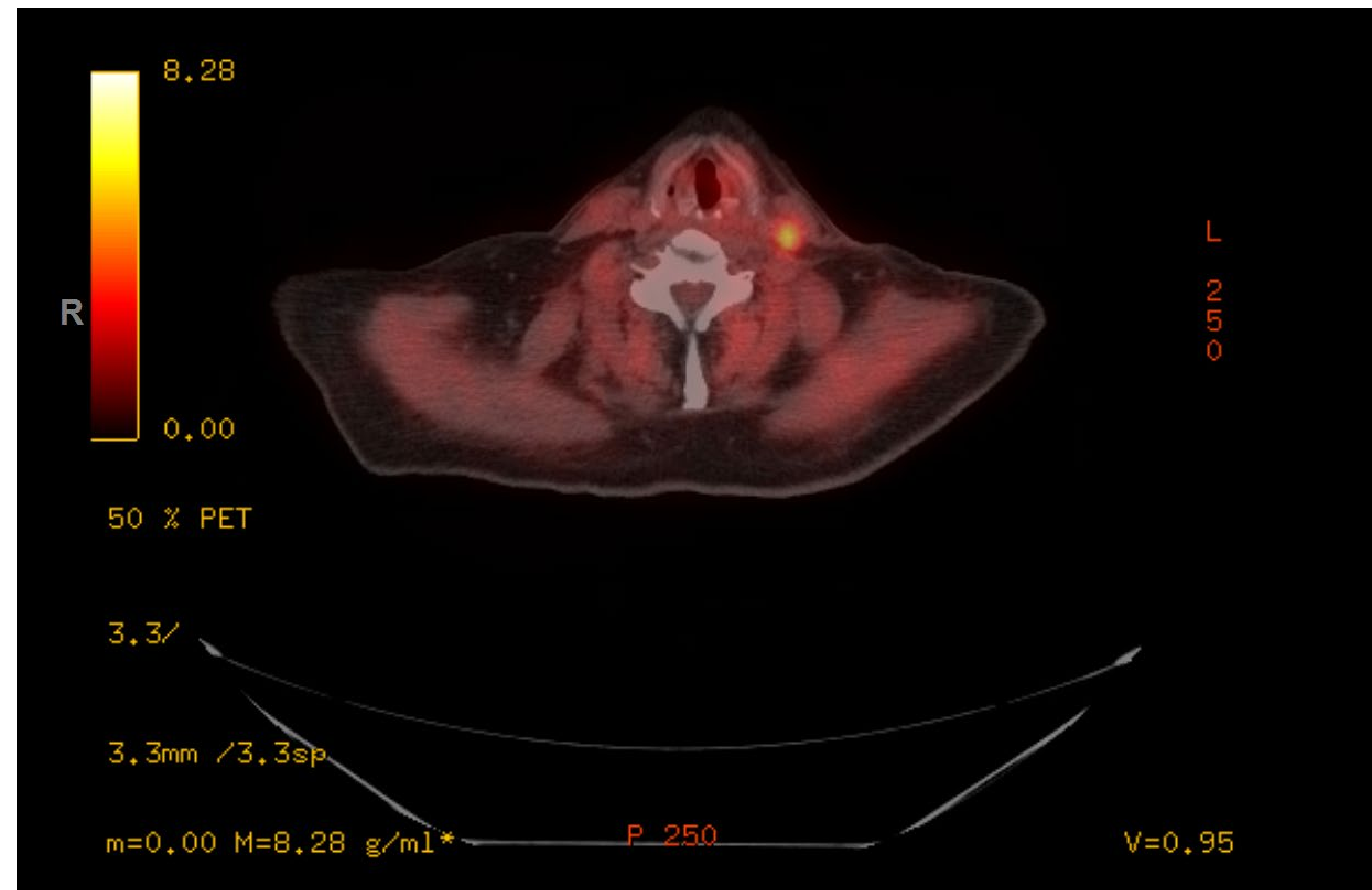


Figure 1. PET scan showing hypermetabolic activity at the level of the left piriform sinus

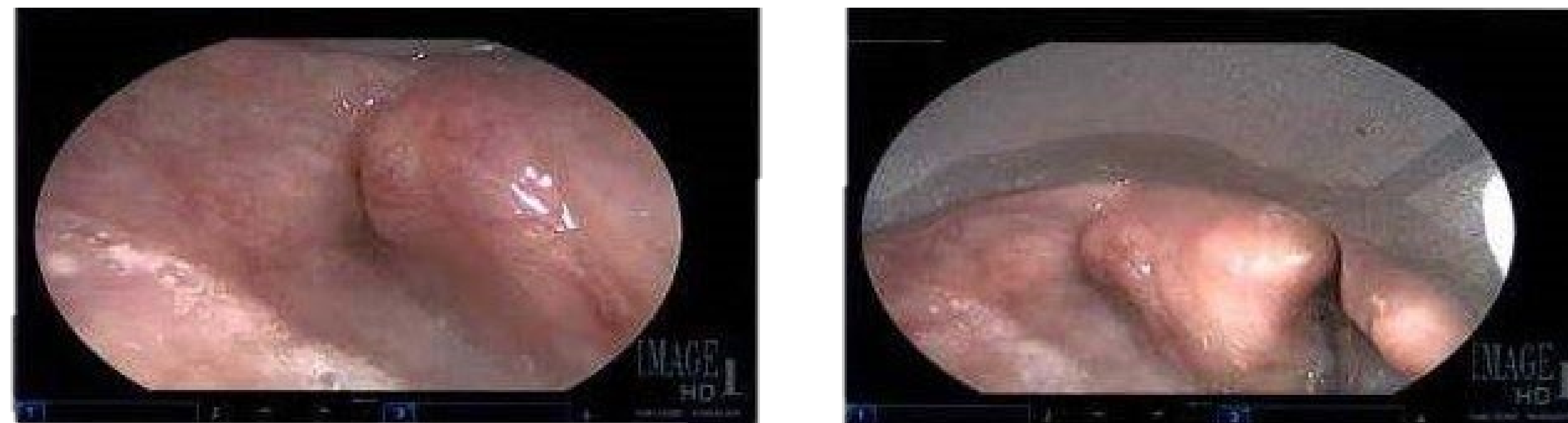


Figure 2. Laryngoscopy confirming mass in the left piriform sinus

Discussion

- **Link** between DM and malignancies.
- **Awareness** about the possible connection between COVID-19 and DM.
- **Challenges** in diagnosis following initial steroid treatment.
- **Importance** of deltoid muscle biopsy for confirming DM.
- **Highlights** Complex etiology indicated by appearance of cervical lymphadenopathy and later neck mass.
- **Need** for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach.
- **Advocates** for aggressive immunosuppressive therapy and surgical intervention.
- **Necessity** for further research to understand the interplay between COVID-19, DM, and malignancy.

Disclosures

No financial disclosures or conflicts of interest