RAPID COURSE OF T-CELL LYMPHOMA ASSOCIATED WITH LATENT GLUTEN ENTEROPATHY

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A 1961-born patient with latent celiac disease presented with severe diarrhea and weight loss and was diagnosed with T-cell lymphoma of the small intestine, ultimately dying despite chemotherapy due to complications including pancytopenia and intestinal bleeding.

KEY POINTS

- The patient presented with liquid stools up to 10 times daily, fever to 38 degrees with chills, and 20 kg weight loss over 2 months after 5 months of milder symptoms.
- Diagnostic workup including endoscopy, imaging, and laparoscopy with histological and immunohistochemical examination of small intestine and lymph node biopsies established the diagnosis of celiac disease complicated by T-cell lymphoma.
- Chemotherapy was complicated by pancytopenia and profuse bleeding from tumor decay in the intestine, with progressive clinical deterioration leading to cardiac arrest and death despite resuscitation attempts.
- The authors note that lack of dispensary observation and active patient referral prevented timely detection of the underlying gluten enteropathy and fatal complications.
- This case report is relevant to gastroenterologists and oncologists managing patients with celiac disease and its complications.

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