

Image of the month: An old cause of cervical lymphadenopathy

Authors: Jason S Biswas,^A Muhammed U Ebrahimsa^B and William Newsholme^C

A 77-year-old Caucasian male presented with productive cough for two days. He had lived in the UK all his life. He had multiple small nodules throughout his neck consistent with lymphadenopathy, with a large scar on the right side (Fig 1).

Chest radiography showed multiple calcified lymph nodes in the neck and left axilla (Fig 2). He revealed he had had scrofula in 1957, treated with streptomycin and debulking surgery

to the right side of the neck. He was discharged well with antibiotics.

Scrofula is most commonly caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in adults. Now uncommon in the Western world, practitioners may see this radiographic appearance amongst their older population who contracted this when tuberculosis was endemic and surgery a mainstay of treatment. ■



Fig 1. Scar on right side of neck.



Fig 2. PA chest radiograph showing multiple calcified lymph nodes.

Authors: ^Aspecialist registrar, Department of Infection, St Thomas' Hospital, London, UK, and specialist registrar in microbiology, Centre for Defence Pathology, Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Birmingham, UK; ^Bspecialist registrar, Department of Infection, St Thomas' Hospital, London, UK; ^Cconsultant physician, Department of Infection, St Thomas' Hospital, London, UK

Address for correspondence: Dr J Biswas, Department of Infection, 5th floor North Wing, St Thomas' Hospital, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London SE1 7EH, UK. Email: jason.biswas@nhs.net