A 48-Year-Old Somali Woman with Hip Pain
(See pages 803–5 for the Answer to the Photo Quiz)

Figure 1. Noncontrast computed tomography scan of the pelvis. A lytic lesion is present in the posterior mid-right ilium (arrow).

A 48-year-old woman, originally from Somalia, presented to her local hospital with severe right hip and leg pain after falling. A radiograph of her hips and pelvis did not reveal any fractures, and the patient was prescribed an anti-inflammatory drug and released from the hospital. Three months later, the patient experienced a second fall, and she again presented to her local hospital, where computed tomography (CT) of her pelvis revealed a pelvic mass 3 cm in diameter. On examination, the patient had extreme pain in her right hip and thigh, which extended into her right leg, ankle, and foot. An additional CT (figure 1) revealed that the pelvic mass involved the right femur and that a small, nondisplaced pubic rami fracture and asso-
associated right iliac crest lytic lesion consistent with enchondroma or chondrosarcoma were present. Two CT-guided biopsies of the right iliac bone mass were performed and were nondiagnostic; however, the second biopsy sample showed chronic inflammation and giant cell granulomas consistent with a chronic inflammatory process. All microbiological smears and cultures (bacterial and fungal) of the pelvic tissue had negative findings. An open biopsy of the right pelvis was performed and exposed material described intraoperatively as “cheesy with cystic-like structures” (figure 2).

What is your diagnosis?