blood work
images in hematology

Snapper-Schneid bodies (coarse cytoplasmic granules) in a patient with multiply relapsed multiple myeloma

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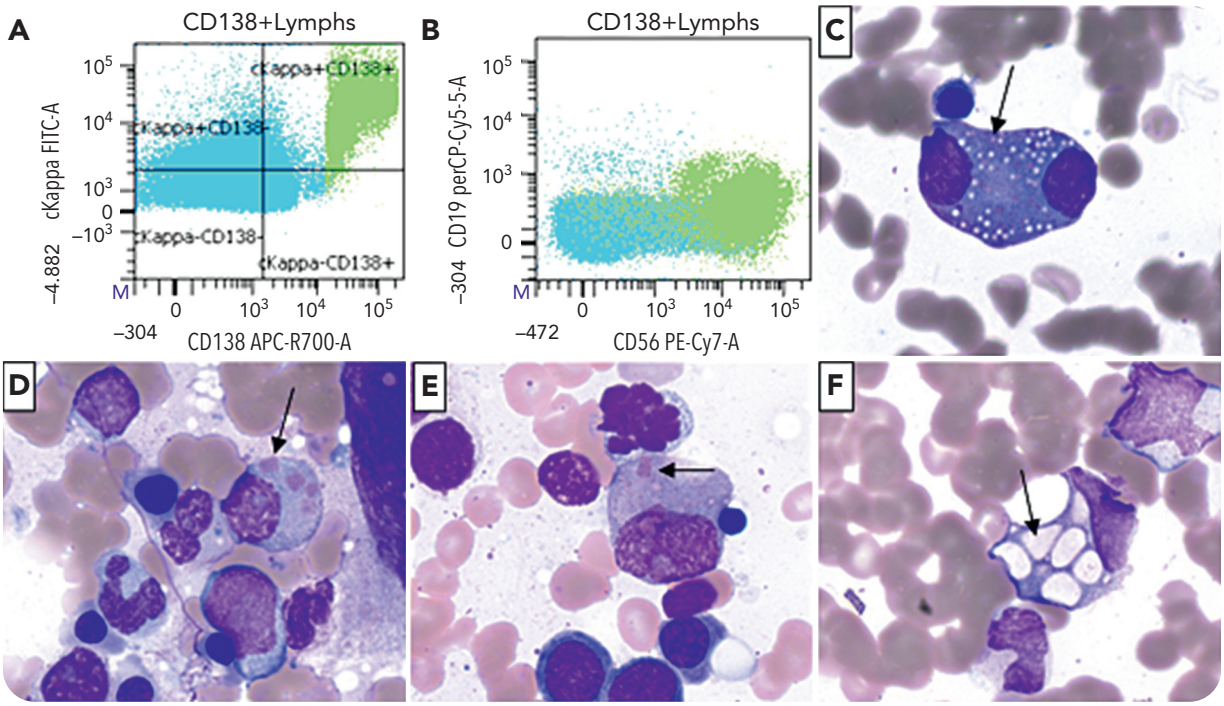

A 66-year-old man with a 15-year history of immunoglobulin G κ multiple myeloma and status post–autologous stem cell transplant and multiple lines of therapy (most recently, daratumumab, cyclophosphamide, and dexamethasone as a bridge to CAR-T therapy) presented for a bone marrow biopsy due to evidence of disease progression. Imaging showed hepatic lesions, and M-protein concentration was 1.78 g/dL (increased from 1.06 g/dL 1 month earlier). Flow cytometry of the aspirate showed involvement by a monotypic plasma cell population that expressed CD138, CD27, CD56, and κ immunoglobulin light chain (panels A-B; lime green: plasma cells). A differential count of the bone marrow aspirate showed 13% plasma cells, some with binucleation or nucleoli. A subset of cells showed coarse azurophilic granules (panels C-E [arrows]; Wright stain, 100× objective), morphologically consistent with Snapper-Schneid bodies. Some cells additionally showed vacuolization (panel F [arrow]; Wright stain, 100× objective).

This case displays Snapper-Schneid bodies, an uncommon cytologic feature most commonly seen in neoplastic plasma cells. Originally described in *Blood* in 1947 in patients who had received diamidine treatment, these granules of lysosomal origin have also been seen in patients receiving modern therapies and in rare cases of reactive plasmacytosis.

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