



Hemosiderophages (Hemosiderin-Laden Macrophages) with a Diagnostic Clue in Gynecologic Cytology of Menopausal Patients

Francisco Javier Torres Gómez*, Rosa Sánchez de Medina-González and Vanesa Ortega-Bravo

Dr. Torres Laboratory (CITADIAG SL), Sevilla, Spain

Dear Sir,

The cytological study of the genital tract (cervico-vaginal cytology (Pap test)) is so widespread today that we often forget that its value, its sensitivity and even its specificity are associated with the provision of a series of clinical data that are extremely useful in interpreting samples and achieving reliable diagnoses.

It is paradoxical that those who take the sample and send it to the Pathology Laboratories do not do so with an accompanying request report duly completed. Despite this, the Pathologist-Cytologist has enough weapons to face complete diagnoses based on Morphology. We are referring precisely in this letter to one of those findings that can be very useful in certain situations.

Contrary to what one might think, the main cause of postmenopausal bleeding is the atrophy itself and not hyperplastic or neoplastic Pathology. It is therefore essential to know the age of menopausal patients who undergo cytology due to bleeding of unknown Etiology.

The ultrasound study is of great help, but on many occasions it has not been carried out yet or the results of the study are not communicated to the pathologist. Furthermore, the absence of information is the norm in different areas.

The identification of samples consisting mainly of basal and parabasal epithelial cells without atypia or atrophic plaques can help guide the interpretation of the findings. However, the interference of hormonal treatments in morphology is more and more frequent. It is therefore necessary to resort to experience to avoid erroneous diagnoses.

Let us remember that, in addition to menopause, other functional states can give rise to atrophic smears, such as childhood, lactation, castration ... but in none of them is bleeding in any of its manifestations frequent.

Experience has allowed us to draw conclusions based on findings that, although they are not universal or always present, help to classify the patient as menopausal and her sample as consistent with atrophy. We refer to the identification of hemosiderin-loaded foamy histiocytes (Figures 1-3).

OPEN ACCESS

*Correspondence:

Francisco Javier Torres-Gómez, Dr. Torres Laboratory (CITADIAG SL), Sevilla, Spain, Tel: +34-629344869; E-mail: javier.torres@citadiag.com

Received Date: 17 Dec 2021

Accepted Date: 03 Jan 2022

Published Date: 13 Jan 2022

Citation:

Gómez FJT, de Medina-González RS, Ortega-Bravo V. Hemosiderophages (Hemosiderin-Laden Macrophages) with a Diagnostic Clue in Gynecologic Cytology of Menopausal Patients. *J Clin Obstet Gynecol Infertil.* 2022; 6(1): 1052.

Copyright © 2022 Francisco Javier Torres Gómez. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

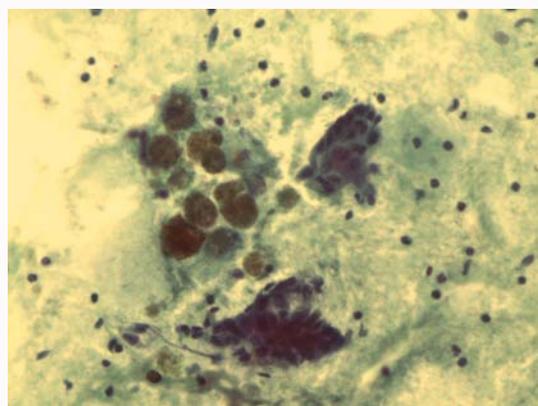


Figure 1: Hemosiderin laden macrophages. Foamy macrophages loaded with brownish-gold granular pigment. Pap test. 200x.

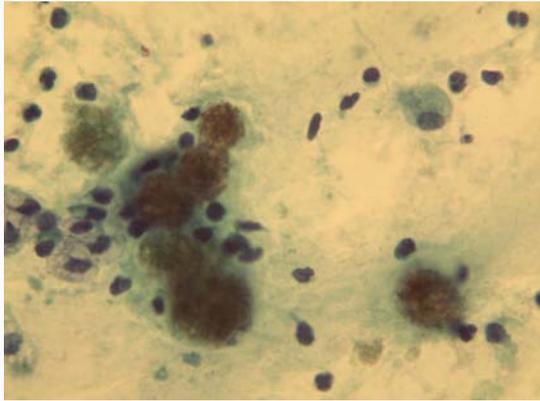


Figure 2: Hemosiderin laden macrophages. Foamy macrophages loaded with brownish-gold granular pigment. Pap test. 200x

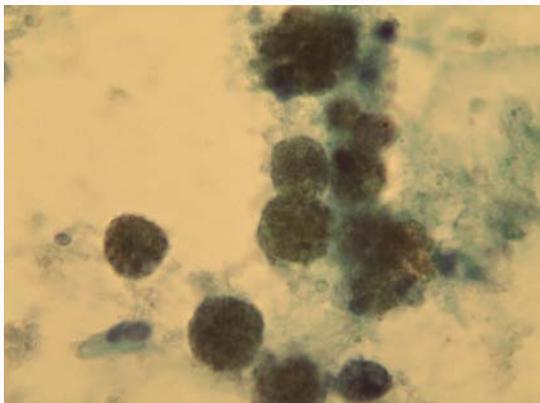


Figure 3: Hemosiderin laden macrophages. Foamy macrophages loaded with brownish-gold granular pigment. Pap test. 400x.

Although it is not an exclusive or pathognomonic finding, it helps, and a lot, in situations in which the clinical information provided is the rule.

We have made a correlation between the identification of hemosiderin laden macrophages and the age of the patients (not provided together with the cytology) in 50 cases, whether or not they are accompanied by other cytological signs of atrophy, and the rule has been met in all cases except 1 case in which the presence of hemosiderin laden macrophages was associated with a later diagnosed endometrial neoplasm.

We therefore believe that we are facing a useful morphological finding. We must also bear in mind that the presence of hemosiderin-loaded foamy histiocytes in menopausal patients should make it necessary to rule out concomitant endometrial pathology.