

# Images of Hematology

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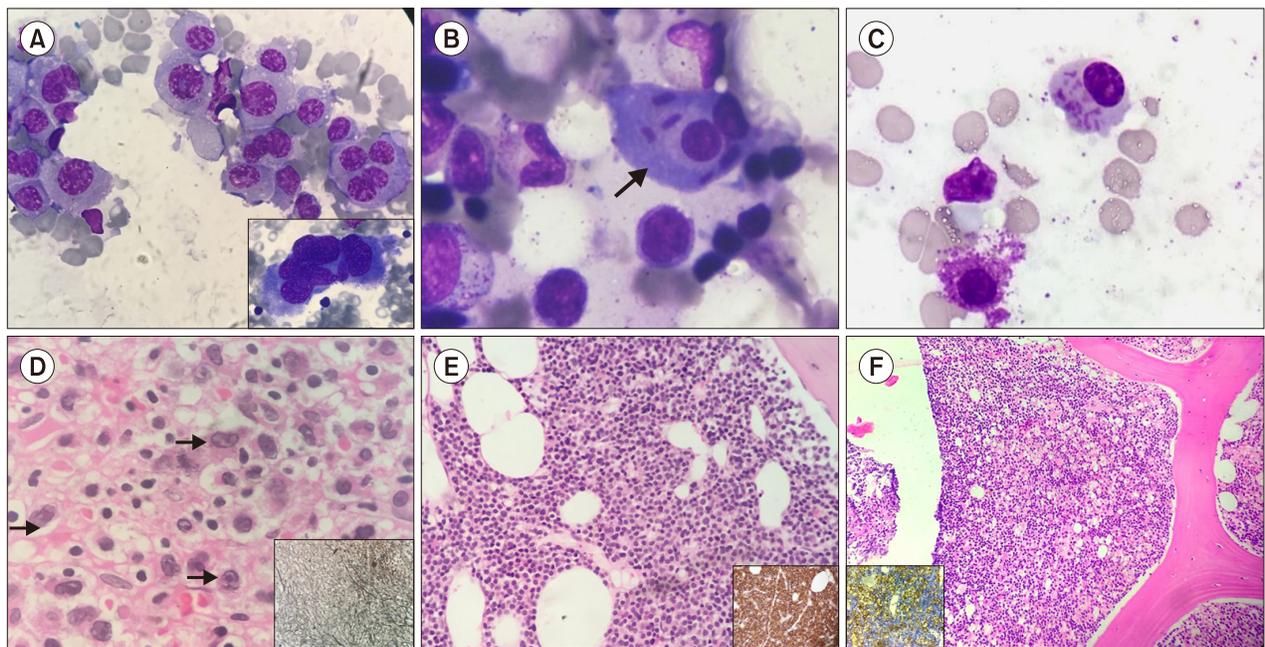
## Plasma cells in disguise: the masquerader in hematopathology

Richa Juneja<sup>1</sup>, Karthika Kundil Veetil<sup>2</sup>, Haraprasad Pati<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pathology, All India Institute of Medical Science, Nagpur, <sup>2</sup>Department of Hematology, All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi, India

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**Correspondence to** Richa Juneja, D.M., Department of Pathology, All India Institute of Medical Science, 309, Near VMV College, Wardman Nagar, Nagpur 440008, India, E-mail: [drrichajuneja@gmail.com](mailto:drrichajuneja@gmail.com)



Six challenging morphological variants of plasma cells were identified in various plasma cell neoplasm and confirmed with flow cytometric immunophenotyping or immunohistochemistry. **(A)** Multinucleated plasma cells, with few resembling a megakaryocyte, in Jenner-Giemsa-stained bone marrow aspirate in an “anaplastic variant” of myeloma ( $\times 40$ ). Inset shows a bizarre plasma cell ( $\times 100$ ). Classical binucleate plasma cell with thick rod-like inclusion in a smear **(B)**, ( $\times 100$ ). A case of MGUS with intracytoplasmic coarse azurophilic Snapper-Schneid granules in plasma cells **(C)**, ( $\times 100$ ). In a case with a dry tap, bone marrow biopsy specimen shows large plasma cells with moderate cytoplasm, irregular nuclei with chromatin remodeling and prominent nucleoli (arrow) in a dense fibrotic marrow. Positive staining for CD138 and kappa restriction confirmed a diagnosis of plasmablastic myeloma **(D)**, ( $\times 40$ ). Bone marrow biopsy revealed sheet-like arrangement of small cells with scanty cytoplasm that mimic a lymphoma in a “small cell variant” **(E)**, ( $\times 20$ ); inset shows CD138-positive staining of all cells with aberrant CD20 positivity and CD45 negativity; FISH showed  $t(11:14)$ . Bone marrow biopsy specimen showed a histiocytic variant of large plasma cells with abundant pale cytoplasm among classical small lymphoid cells in lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma ( $\times 20$ ); inset shows CD138 positivity and lambda restriction **(F)**.