CLINICAL VISTAS

Spontaneous expectoration of lung tumour mass

A 57-year-old man noticed a painless bluish mass enlarging on top of his right foot. Fineneedle aspiration and excisional biopsy showed a high-grade giant-cell variant of malignant fibrous histiocytoma. Because he had recurrence of the tumour at

the initial excision site within 2 months, the patient opted for below-knee amputation without adjuvant radiation therapy. The surgical resection margins were free of tumour cells.

Unfortunately, the patient had

increasing shortness of breath on

exertion within 4 months after

amputation. A chest CT showed

bilateral pulmonary nodules con-

sistent with metastases. He was

prognostic factors.3 Originally described by Mackenzie in 1886,4 expectoration of large fragments of lung tumour is rare.5 It has been described in cases of endobronchial primary lung cancer and metastases from renal cell and colon carcinomas, osteogenic sarcoma and malignant melanomas.5 More recently in the era of AIDS, coughing up sections of tumour has been seen in patients with Kaposi's sarcoma and lymphoma. Spontaneous expectoration of metastatic malignant

fibrous histiocytoma is excep-

tive margins along with adjuvant

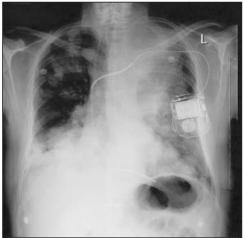
radiation therapy is the treat-

ment of choice for local disease.1

Distant metastasis, larger pri-

mary tumour (> 5 cm) and high-

grade tumour are all negative



admitted to hospital 5 months after the onset of shortness of breath for anthracycline-based chemotherapy. However, his left ventricular ejection fraction decreased, and therapy was switched to an ifosfamide-based regimen. Despite this, serial imaging showed enlarging nodules in the lung (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2), and hemoptysis developed 16 months after the start of chemotherapy. Along with bright red blood, the patient coughed up solid masses up to 5 cm in length (Fig. 3). Biopsy of the expectorated masses confirmed the radiologic diagnosis of metastatic malignant fibrous histiocytoma to

the lung. The patient died in hos-

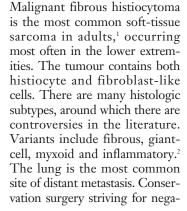
pital within 2 months after the

onset of hemoptysis.



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tionally rare.

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