

CASE 12

Microscopy

Lymph node showing preserved architecture with follicular hyperplasia and small poorly formed intrafollicular granulomata within germinal centres. There is also parafollicular expansion by monocytoïd B cells. No organisms or viral inclusions are identified. There is also no evidence of metastatic or lymphomatous malignancy.

Favoured diagnosis

The morphological appearances are those of a benign reactive lymphadenopathy with features favouring TOXOPLASMA TOXOPLASMOSES

Further work

Immunohistochemistry and PCR for *Toxoplasma gondii* can be performed as well as serological confirmation.

Comment

Toxoplasma gondii is a common obligate intracellular parasite which is often transmitted through cat faeces or undercooked meat. It occurs more commonly in immunosuppressed patients. Tachyzoites and bradyzoites can be seen at different times of the parasite's life cycle.