

CASE 15

Microscopy

Esophageal squamous mucosa showing features of acute and chronic inflammation, ulcerate and granular tissue. Within the granular tissue the endothelial cells are enlarged and contain large basophilic owl's eye type viral intranuclear inclusions. No fungal hyphae are seen on H+E. No multinucleated ground glass type inclusions are seen. There is no evidence of dysplasia or malignancy.

Favored diagnosis

In the context of immunosuppression (renal transplant history), the morphological appearances are consistent with ulcerative esophagitis secondary to Cytomegalovirus infection.

Further work

Immunohistochemistry and ISH for CMV can be performed to confirm the diagnosis, as well as blood serology.

PAS and Grocott would exclude co-existence of fungal organisms which can also be present in the immunosuppressed patient.