



## Pathology Page

## Kaposi's sarcoma

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A 39-year-old man who was positive for human immunodeficiency virus had a brownish tumor on his right big toe for 1 year. Amputation was performed in our hospital (Fig. 1A). Histopathology showed Kaposi's sarcoma characterized by spindle cell proliferation with slit spaces filled red blood cells (Fig. 1B). Kaposi's sarcoma is a malignant tumor derived from endothelial cells. It has now appeared in epidemic form and is associated with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). This association suggests that an immune deficiency plays a role in the pathogenesis of the tumor. The cause of this formerly rare disease is now clearer, and its association with the current AIDS epidemic as a widespread, multifocal lesion suggests that it is related to the loss of immunity. A virus of the herpes family, human herpesvirus-8 is present in the spindle cells of Kaposi's sarcoma and is thought to contribute to the genesis of this tumor. The tumor begins as painful, purple or brown nodules on the skin varying from 1 mm to 1 cm in diameter. They occur most often on the hands or feet but may appear anywhere.

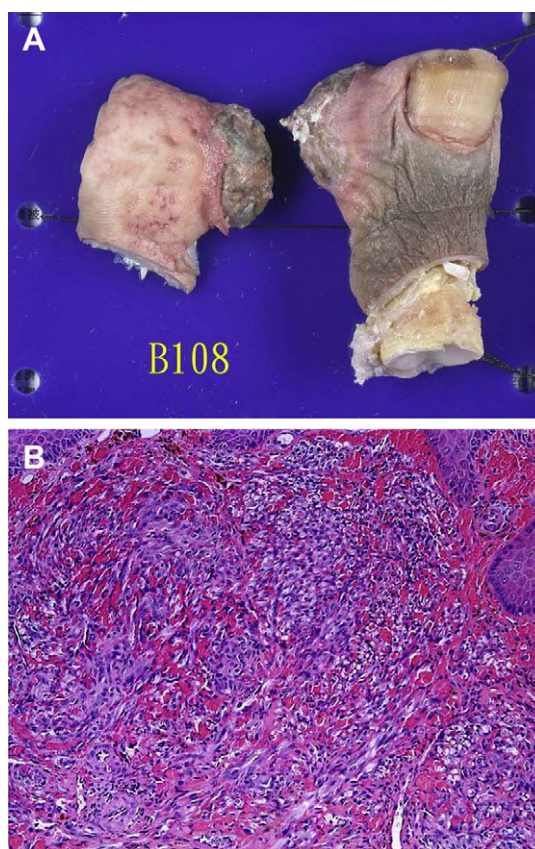
Histopathology shows spindle cell proliferation with formation of slit spaces filled with red blood cells. Kaposi's sarcoma is considered to be a malignant lesion and may be widely disseminated in the body especially in both lungs and may be the cause of death in some patients of AIDS.

## Further reading

- [1] Lin CY, Chen MY, Hsieh SM, et al. Kaposi's sarcoma in patients with human immunodeficiency virus infection in Taiwan. *J Microbiol Immunol Infect* 2009;42:227–33.
- [2] Hsu YH, Kuo WL, Su IJ. Clinicopathologic study of Kaposi's sarcoma and strain analysis of human herpesvirus 8 (HHV-8) DNA in the Hua-Lien area of eastern Taiwan. *J Formos Med Assoc* 2001;100:449–54.

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**Fig. 1.** (A) There is a brownish nodule on the big toe. (B) Histopathology shows Kaposi's sarcoma characterized by spindle cell proliferation with formation of slit spaces filled with red blood cells (HE  $\times$  400). HE = hematoxylin and eosin stain.