Incidental Whorls on EM: Nonspecific or Diagnostic Clue?

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Abstract

Myeloid bodies are electron-dense structures with concentrically and/or laminated appearance that can be identified in lysosomes of multiple cell types by Transmission electron microscopy (TEM). Historically myeloid bodies have been associated with lysosomal storage diseases, in particular Fabry's disease where myeloid bodies or "Zebra bodies" are a clue and may guide further studies to identify possible hereditary diseases. Myeloid bodies may be an incidental finding in nonhereditary diseases of the kidney, including autoimmune and nonautoimmune diseases affecting any of the renal compartments. Myeloid bodies are also increasingly recognized in so-called drug-induced phospholipidosis.

The significance of myeloid bodies identification by TEM will be reviewed in several case presentations