

# Thymoma associated with myasthenia and autonomic anti-Hu paraneoplastic neuropathy

Matteo Simonelli<sup>1</sup>, Giuseppe Luigi Banna<sup>2</sup>, and Armando Santoro<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology, Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Rozzano, Milan;

<sup>2</sup>Unit of Medical Oncology, Vittorio Emanuele II University Hospital, Catania, Italy

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## ABSTRACT

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Along with myasthenia, other paraneoplastic neurological syndromes (PNS) may occur in thymoma. Anti-Hu antibodies and a clinical "anti-Hu syndrome" characterized by encephalitis and/or painful neuropathies have been reported in only three patients at the time of the diagnosis of thymoma. We describe a severe anti-Hu-related autonomic neuropathy with gastrointestinal paresis and intestinal pseudo-obstruction with malabsorption that occurred concomitantly with the worsening of myasthenic symptoms long after the initial diagnosis of thymoma in a young patient. The clinical anti-Hu syndrome preceded the radiological diagnosis of thymoma recurrence. Treatment with plasma exchange led to a transient improvement of neurological symptoms.

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**Key words:** thymoma, paraneoplastic neurological syndrome, anti-Hu, autonomic neuropathy, myasthenia.

*Correspondence to:* Matteo Simonelli, MD, Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology, Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Via Manzoni 56, 20089 Rozzano, Milan, Italy.

Tel +39-348-5124208;

fax +39-02-82244991;

e-mail [matteo.simonelli@gmail.com](mailto:matteo.simonelli@gmail.com)

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