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EPITHELIOID HEMANGIOENDOTHELIOMA WITH MUSCLE INVOLVEMENT AND PULMONARY METASTASIS

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A 73-year-old former smoker, asymptomatic at presentation, underwent a routine chest computed tomography (CT) scan that revealed multiple randomly distributed solid pulmonary nodules, all measuring less than 10 mm in diameter (Fig. 1A). Physical examination was unremarkable. Positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) showed no significant fluorodeoxyglucose uptake in the pulmonary nodules but revealed a hypermetabolic lesion in the soft tissue of the right calf, with a maximum standardized uptake value of 3.4 (Fig. 1B). CT-guided biopsy of the muscular lesion confirmed epithelioid hemangioendothelioma. The pulmonary nodules were interpreted as metastatic lesions.

Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma is a rare vascular tumor of intermediate malignant potential that may arise in soft tissue, liver, lungs, bone, or large vessels. The liver and soft tissues are the most frequent primary sites, while the lungs represent the most common site of metastasis, typically manifesting as randomly distributed nodules smaller than 20 mm, consistent with hematogenous spread. Thoracic involvement has been described in four imaging patterns: multinodular, reticulonodular, parenchymal mass with pleural invasion, and diffuse pleural thickening. In this context, epithelioid hemangioendothelioma should be included among the differential diagnoses of randomly distributed pulmonary nodules.

Figure 1 |