Peripheral Intrapulmonary Lipoma: A Case Report

Lipoma intrapulmonar periférico: reporte de un caso

To the Editor,

Endobronchial pulmonary lipomas are rare, and intraparenchymal endobronchial lipomas are even more so. We report the case of a 62-year-old housewife, never-smoker, with a history of vaginitis, psoriasis, hypertension and hysterectomy. During a private health check-up, a chest X-ray revealed a radiopaque mass, 4 cm × 3 cm, with defined borders in the right lung base. She was referred to the Instituto Oncológico Nacional Dr. Juan Tanca Marenco, in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Lung auscultation revealed reduced breath sounds in the right lung base. Other physical examination parameters were normal. Hematology, biochemistry, tumor marker (CEA, CYFRA 21-1, NSE) and lung function test results were within normal values. Chest computed tomography (CT) showed a formation of soft tissues with attenuation coefficient for fat and irregular outline in the right posterior basal segment, containing a 4 cm × 3 cm macrocalcification. The patient underwent right throracotomy, revealing a tumor in the right posterior basal section of the lung. Right lower lobectomy was performed, with no postsurgical complications. Pathology study of the sample reported intraparenchymal lipoma.

Pulmonary lipomas are thought to represent 0.1%–0.5% of all lung tumors. They occur within the bronchus and very occasionally in the lung periphery.1 According to Watts, Caggett and MacDonald, lipomas in the lung parenchyma or below the pleura

References

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* Please cite this article as: Marcos PJ, Huerta A, Márquez-Martín E. Actualización de GesEPOC 2014 y corticoides sistémicos en la agudización de enfermedad pulmonar obstructiva crónica (EPOC). Arch Bronconeumol. 2015;51:360.
may develop from the fat that is often found in the smaller bronchi.

Few cases of peripheral intrapulmonary lipomas have been published, and the limited literature makes it difficult to diagnose these cases and provide appropriate treatment. Most cases recorded involve chance discovery and diagnosis after surgical resection. The first case reported in the literature, to the best of our knowledge, was a description of an autopsy finding by Buchmam in 1911. In 1989, Hirata declared that the treatment of peripheral lipoma was limited to surgical intervention, while in 2004, Wood et al.

found that surgical intervention for diagnostic purposes could be avoided by careful review of the radiological records. These same authors also pointed out that the differential diagnosis of a fatty peripheral pulmonary mass must include not only lipoma, but also fibrolipoma-hamartoma and liposarcoma.

Our case was a patient with no previous radiological records and a radiopaque intrapulmonary mass, so the only reliable approach for reaching an accurate diagnosis and confirming or ruling out malignancy was pathological analysis (Fig. 1).

**Conflict of Interests**

We confirm that we have no conflict of interests with any constitutional government, that that no pharmaceutical or medical company was involved in this report.

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**Situs Inversus With Pulmonary Atelectasis**

*Situs inversus asociado a atelectasia pulmonar*

To the Editor,

*Situs inversus totalis* (SIT) is an uncommon congenital disease in which the positions of the chest and abdominal organs are reversed. *Situs inversus* (SI) is an autosomal recessive genetic condition that occurs in only about 0.001%–0.01% of the general population. This rare genetic anomaly is usually described or diagnosed by chance during chest or abdominal imaging procedures. We report a case of right pulmonary atelectasis in which the heart, spleen and liver were located right of midline.

A 46-year-old man, non-smoker with no particular complaints was referred to our department due to an abnormal chest X-ray showing dextrocardia and homogeneous opacity in the mid-right lung. Chest computed tomography (CT) showed segmentary atelectasis, extending from the right lower lobe to the right middle lobe (Fig. 1). Heart and spleen were also observed right of midline, while the liver was on the left. These findings were consistent with SIT. Fiberoptic bronchoscopy revealed the lack of an upper lobe in the right lung, but it is interesting to note that the structure of the upper lobe of the left lung was normal, i.e., it had 3 segments;

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**Please cite this article as:** Şimşek A. Situs inversus asociado a atelectasia pulmonar. Arch Bronconeumol. 2015;51:361–362.