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A case of pulmonary artery aneurysm caused by pulmonary mucormycosis

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Pulmonary mucormycosis is an uncommon opportunistic infection caused by fungi, and it usually occurs in immunosuppressed patients. Pulmonary artery aneurysm are rarely caused by pulmonary mucormycosis when fungi invades the blood vessels and it cause serious bleeding. Combination of antifungal with surgical resection of the involved tissue is the best approach advocated. We reported a case of patient who recovered by surgical treatment of pulmonary artery aneurysm caused by pulmonary mucormycosis. A 72-year-old female was presented to the emergency room with cough, sputum, and weight loss for the last three months. Blood tests showed leukocytosis, high C-reactive protein (57.63 mg/dL), high HbA1c (13.7%) and ketoacidosis. The computed tomography(CT) of the chest showed chronic necrotizing pneumonia in the left lung. Based on the clinical features, laboratory findings, and CT findings, she was diagnosed with necrotizing pneumonia combined with diabetic ketoacidosis. She was put on broad spectrum intravenous antibiotics and insulin therapy was continued. Her condition, however, did not improve. And blood began to come out from her sputum. Follow-up chest CT scan showed an aneurysm of the left descending pulmonary artery. Since her condition did not improve despite of intensive medical treatment, the need for thoracic surgery for persistent hemoptysis and necrotizing pneumonia was considered. She was transferred to the department of thoracic surgery, and underwent left pneumonectomy. Histopathologic findings of the surgical specimen was showed fungal hyphae. She was fully recovered, and discharged home on two months after admission.

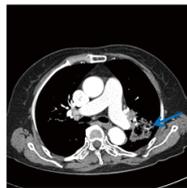


Fig. 1. CT showing necrotizing pneumonia in left lung.

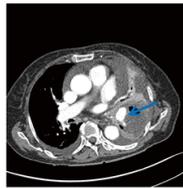


Fig. 2. CT showing pulmonary artery aneurysm.

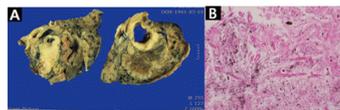


Fig. 3. Gross (A) and microscopic finding (B) from surgical specimen. A few fungal hyphae are present in necrotic tissue. (H&E stain, x400)