

A case of disappeared Rasmussen’s aneurysm after the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis

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Background: Rasmussen’s aneurysm, a very rare complication of pulmonary tuberculosis(TB), is a pulmonary artery aneurysm adjacent to or within a tuberculous cavity. It can present as repeated episodes of minor hemoptysis or as massive hemoptysis.

Case report: A 60-year-old male was referred with cough, sputum, myalgia, and 10kg of weight loss in 3 months as chief complaints. Chest radiograph and CT scan showed cavitory lesion in left upper lobe(LUL) (Fig.1, Fig.2a). Sputum AFB smear and MTB PCR were positive. He was diagnosed as active TB and started on anti-TB medications (isoniazid 300mg, rifampicin 600mg, ethambutol 800mg, and pyrazinamide 1,500mg). Since his symptoms improved, he was discharged on 9th hospital day. Eight days after discharge, he was referred to the emergency department with an episode of hemoptysis with an amount of 50ml. CT revealed a newly developed 1.7cm sized round aneurysm within a cavitory lesion in LUL (Fig.2b). He was diagnosed with Rasmussen’s aneurysm. We were planning to treat hemoptysis by embolization of Rasmussen’s aneurysm, however, he refused it and hemoptysis was stopped with conservative management. Since then hemoptysis did not occur until the end of anti-TB therapy. Follow-up chest CT, taken 9 months later, revealed disappeared Rasmussen’s aneurysm and obliterated cavitory lesion with markedly decreased LUL consolidation (Fig.2c).

Discussion: Our case is unique in that Rasmussen’s aneurysm was developed in the middle of anti-TB treatment. Interestingly, Rasmussen’s aneurysm disappeared after the completion of TB treatment without any embolization procedures.

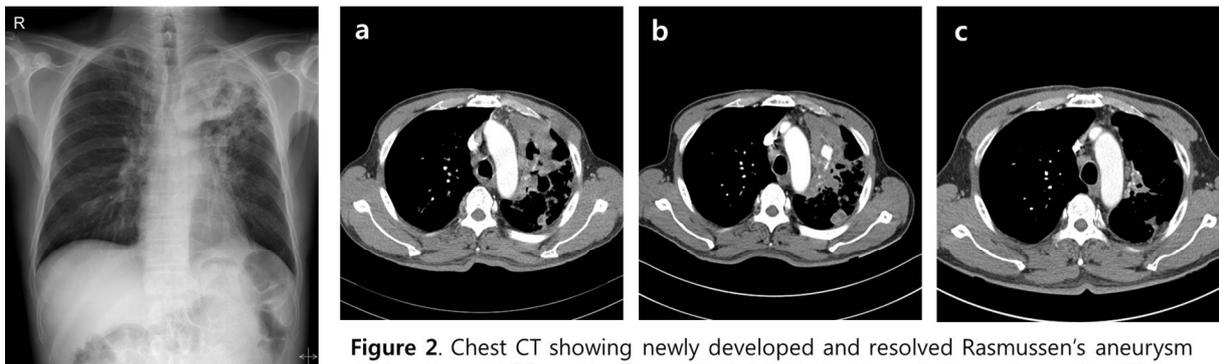


Figure 1. Chest PA showing consolidation with cavity in left upper lobe(LUL).

Figure 2. Chest CT showing newly developed and resolved Rasmussen’s aneurysm during the anti-TB medication period. **(a)** At the time of diagnosing active TB, without evidence of Rasmussen’s aneurysm; **(b)** Newly developed Rasmussen’s aneurysm; **(c)** After 9 months of anti-TB medication showing disappeared Rasmussen’s aneurysm, obliterated cavitory lesion in LUL, and decreased extent of consolidation in LUL.