

Actinomycosis mimicking peritoneal carcinomatosis with mediastinal lymph node metastasis

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Introduction: Disseminated Actinomycosis is a rare infection caused by Actinomyces species, which are slow-growing, anaerobic gram-positive rods. It is capable of multiorgan involvement. However, concurrent involvement of the intestine, peritoneum, and mediastinal lymph node has rarely been reported. We report a case of disseminated actinomycosis mimicking peritoneal carcinomatosis with mediastinal lymph node metastasis.

Case report: An 85-year-old woman was admitted to the hospital because of evaluation for high levels of C-reactive protein (CRP). She underwent orthopedic surgery due to a fracture of the right ankle one month ago. There were no specific symptoms or signs except mild redness and tenderness of the surgical site. Abdominopelvic computed tomography (CT) showed an ill-defined mass in the sigmoid colon and adjacent mesocolon, multiple enhancing omental nodules, and irregular peritoneal thickening. Positron emission tomography-computed tomography showed hypermetabolic mass and nodules in the abdominopelvic cavity and hypermetabolic lymph node in the right lower paratracheal area. She underwent esophagogastroduodenoscopy and colonoscopy in the outpatient clinic, but there was no evidence of malignancy in the examinations. A surgical biopsy was scheduled to confirm the diagnosis, but the patient developed abdominal pain and underwent emergent surgery because of small bowel obstruction in another hospital. Small bowel resection and anastomosis were performed together with surgical biopsy of peritoneal nodules. The biopsy results were compatible with actinomycosis. She was treated with intravenous ceftriaxone for six weeks. Then, antibiotic therapy continued with oral amoxicillin. Follow-up CT scans were performed six months after antibiotic therapy. Abdominopelvic CT showed disappeared omental nodules and irregular peritoneal thickening. Chest CT showed decreased size of the mediastinal lymph node.

Conclusion: Disseminated actinomycosis can reveal multiorgan involvement with various combinations, and mimic metastatic malignancy. Physicians should consider actinomycosis as a differential diagnosis in patients with suspected malignancy.

