

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

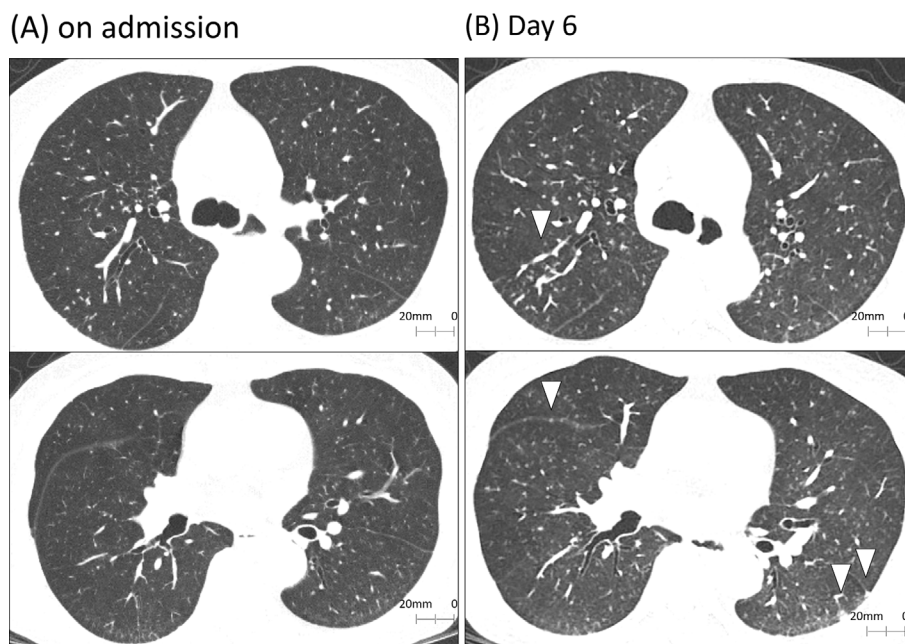
Repeated Chest Computed Tomography Revealed Early-stage Miliary Tuberculosis

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Key words: miliary tuberculosis, computed tomography, immunocompromised

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Picture.

A 71-year-old woman with polymyositis who had been treated with oral prednisolone (15 mg/day on admission) for 12 years was hospitalized due to a high fever. Chest computed tomography (CT) on admission revealed a left cervical abscess and centrilobular lung nodules suspected of being an intrabronchial infection (Picture A). Since intravenous administration of ceftriaxone did not improve her symptoms, chest CT was repeatedly performed on day 6 to follow the abscess, and randomly distributed small nodules, including pleural lesions, were detected (Picture B, arrowheads). *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was identified from blood as well as sputum samples, leading to a final diagnosis of miliary tuberculosis with pulmonary tuberculosis. We did not find any nosocomial infection with delayed airborne precaution.

In this case, repeated CT successfully revealed the development of early-stage miliary tuberculosis; centrilobular lung nodules progressed to a miliary pattern within one week. Previous studies have indicated difficulties in obtaining an imaging-based diagnosis of miliary tuberculosis (1, 2). This case highlights the importance of performing CT repeatedly to diagnose miliary tuberculosis, especially among immunocompromised patients with infectious disease that do not respond to non-anti-tuberculosis antibiotics.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

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