

IMAGES IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Infectious Disease

Hemoptysis in an elderly woman

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A 70-year-old woman presented with hemoptysis for 1 day after consuming red-colored dragon fruit. She had no history of smoking, chest pain, productive purulent sputum, fever, long-term immobilization, or history of any medical disease. On arrival, the vital signs at triage were as follows: body temperature 36.3°C, heart rate 104 beats/min, respiratory rate 18/min, and blood pressure 132/66 mmHg. There were clear and symmetric breathing sounds on auscultation. The patient's blood tests results revealed white blood cell count 5000/μL, hemoglobin level 12.6 g/dL, platelet count 192,000/μL, prothrombin time 10.7 seconds, and activated partial thromboplastin time 24.7 seconds with international normalized ratio 1.05. The Chest X Ray showed as Figure 1 and for further assessment, computed tomography (Figure 2) was performed.

1 | DIAGNOSIS

Tuberculoma. We first performed sputum acid fast staining and tuberculosis (TB) culture. TB polymerase chain reaction revealed a positive result. We prescribed tranexamic acid (250 mg) 3 times per day and initiated anti-TB treatment: ethambutol 800 mg, pyrazinamide 1000 mg, rifampicin 450 mg, and isoniazid 300 mg per day. The patient's hemoptysis gradually improved in the clinic. Tracing her medical record, no other family member had reported a history of TB nor had other members followed up at the pulmonary medicine clinic.

Tuberculoma appears as a mass-like lesion ranging from 0.5 to 4 cm or greater in diameter.

Satellite nodules are found in 80% of the cases. Twenty to 30% of tuberculomas were eventually calcified. In our case, all the features were found.^{1,2} In addition, the tree-in-bud sign was found in multiple lobes, which is usually found in patients with TB. It can mimic

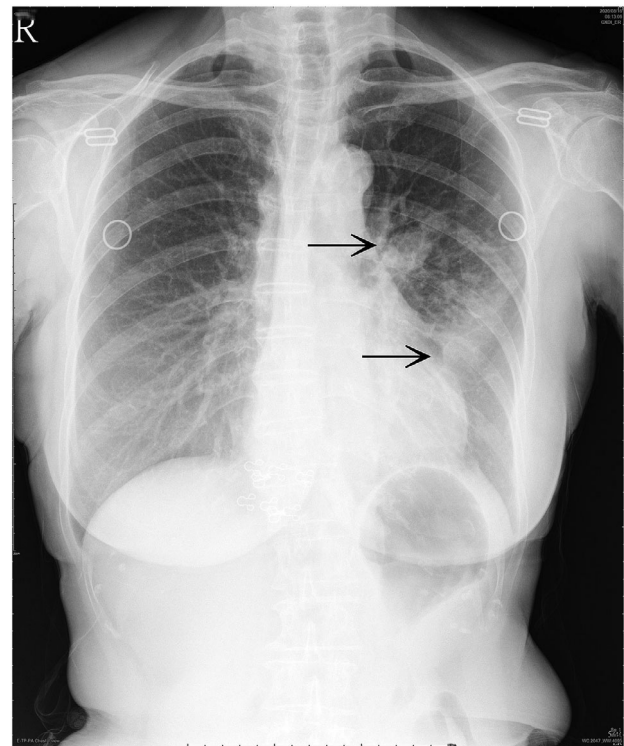


FIGURE 1 Two ill-defined radiopacities with air bronchogram in the left lower lung (LLL) field and the left hilar region on chest radiograph

lung malignancy in clinical practice. In lung malignancy, larger nodules are found, with relatively solid versus ground-glass opacities in higher sensitivities.³

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