

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

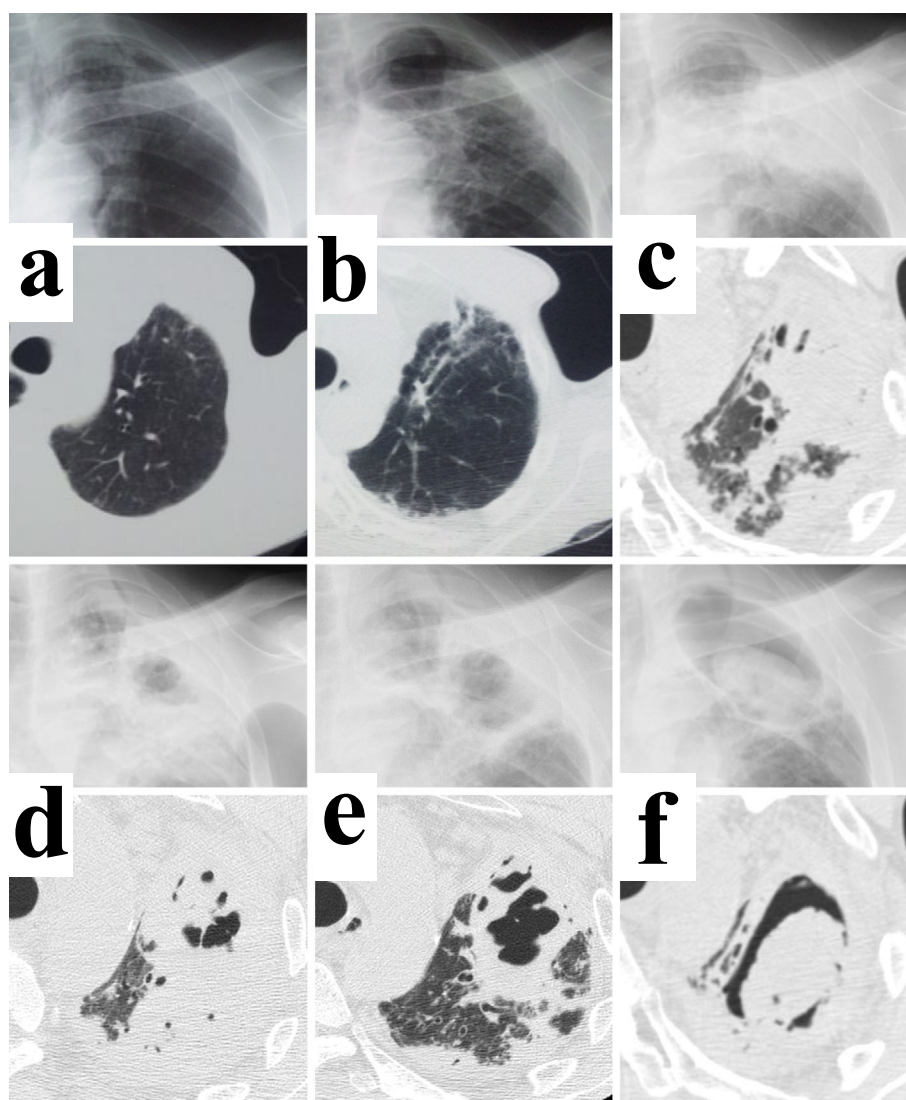
The “Detachment Process” of Aspergilloma Formation

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Picture.

Pulmonary aspergilloma is generally formed secondary to cavitory and cystic lung diseases (1); however, we herein report a case of aspergilloma in a non-cavitory field. A 55-

year-old man with no significant medical history was referred to our hospital for chronic cough. Chest images revealed no abnormal changes in the lungs (Picture a). One

year after the referral, chest computed tomography showed limited ground-glass and cystic lesions (Picture b). Subsequently, they developed consolidation within two months (Picture c), which then coalesced to form a cavity (Picture d, e). The crumbled opacities detached from the cavity wall and formed an ellipsoid fungus ball (Picture f). Sputum samples were positive for *Aspergillus*.

In the early stages of aspergilloma formation, the fungal fronds are believed to intersect with each other, forming a sponge-like network in the cavity; however, the process is still not fully elucidated. In this case, we were able to observe each stage of aspergilloma formation, which led to the suggestion of a “detachment process” of aspergilloma formation.

The author states that he has no Conflict of Interest (COI).

Reference

1. Akimoto T, Saito O, Inoue M, et al. Rapid formation of *Aspergillus* mycetoma in a patient receiving corticosteroid treatment. Serial radiographic observation over two months. Intern Med **46**: 733-737, 2007.

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