MEDIASTINAL HISTOPLASMOSIS: REPORT OF THE FIRST TWO BRAZILIAN CASES OF MEDIASTINAL GRANULOMA

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SUMMARY

This report documents the first two Brazilian cases of mediastinal granuloma due to histoplasmosis, presenting selected aspects on the diagnosis. Tissue samples revealing histoplasmosis were obtained from each of the patients by mediastinoscopy and thoracotomy. In the second patient, a subcarinal calcified mass eroded into the bronchial tree, leading to secondary bilateral aspiration pneumonitis one week after thoracotomy.

Although rare, histoplasmosis should be included in the differential diagnosis of mediastinal granuloma, specially if there are calcifications greater than 10 mm in dimension.

KEYWORDS: Histoplasmosis; Histoplasma capsulatum var. capsulatum; Mediastinal histoplasmosis; Mediastinal granuloma.

INTRODUCTION

Classic histoplasmosis is caused by the thermal dimorphic fungus Histoplasma capsulatum var. capsulatum (H. capsulatum). The usual manifestation is an acute, self-limited, flu-like respiratory illness, however, depending on the host's defenses and extent of inoculation, a variety of clinical manifestations may result.

The resolution process of granulomatous lymphadenitis due to H. capsulatum may cause mediastinal disease. Mediastinal granuloma and fibrosing mediastinitis are both well-documented, though uncommon, mediastinal sequela of infection. Their formation depends on the lymph node caseation and the degree of fibrotic response incited to the organism.

There are three clinical syndromes associated with mediastinal histoplasmosis: mediastinal adenitis, mediastinal granuloma and fibrosing mediastinitis. In Brazil, only the latter has been previously documented. To present the first two cases of mediastinal granuloma warrant this report. A brief review of the pertinent literature is presented.

CASE REPORTS

CASE 1: A 62-year-old man, was seen in May, 2002 in Salvador (BA) complaining of nonproductive cough during the previous two months. He had smoked two packs of cigarettes for many years. Physical examination was entirely normal. A computed tomographic (CT) scan of the thorax (Fig. 1) showed a pretracheal mass of 1.7 cm and increased mediastinal lymphadenopathy in the right paratracheal region. Mediastinoscopic examination showed a pretracheal mass with no fibrosis or apparent damage to the adjacent structures. Samples of the right paratracheal lymph nodes and the mass were taken for histopathological examination, which showed large foci of caseous...

Fig. 1 - CASE 1: Computed tomographic scan of the chest showing a 1.7 cm noncalcified, necrotic pretracheal mass (arrow).
Histoplasmosis mediastinal: relato dos dois primeiros casos brasileiros de granuloma mediastinal

São relatados os dois primeiros casos de granuloma mediastinal por histoplasmosa no Brasil, apresentando aspectos selecionados sobre diagnóstico. O diagnóstico tecidual de histoplasmosa foi obtido por mediastinoscopia e toracotomia, respectivamente. Em um paciente a massa calcificada subcarinal erodiu na árvore brônquica com pneumonite de aspiração bilateral uma semana após a toracotomia.

Embora rara, histoplasmosa deve ser incluída no diagnóstico...
diferencial de granuloma mediastinal especialmente com calcificação maior do que 10 mm de diâmetro.

REFERENCES


