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Multiple Large Lung Cavitary Lesions Due to Streptococcus Intermedius in an Otherwise Healthy Young Male

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BACKGROUND

• Streptococcus intermedius is a member of the Streptococcus anginosus group (SAG), previously known as the Streptococcus milleri group.
• It is a Gram-positive, catalase negative coccus that is non motile and is a facultative anaerobe. This group is part of the normal flora of the oropharynx, genitourinary, and gastrointestinal tracts.
• However, they have been known to cause a variety of purulent infections and abscess formation.
• This includes those of the brain, meninges, heart, sinuses, liver, lungs, spleen, peritonium, pelvis, and appendix. It has been suggested in some reports that infections by these bacteria are increased in patients with multiple comorbidities, malignancy, and diabetes i.e. immunocompromised and chronically ill individuals.
• Our case illustrates an unusual presentation of Cavitary lung lesions caused by S. intermedius in an otherwise healthy immunocompetent young male.

CASE PRESENTATION

A 26 year old male presented to the emergency department with four days of cough with blood tinged sputum, left pleurisy, weight loss and night sweats.

Chest x-ray revealed multiple bilateral large confluent pulmonary nodules, some of which were Cavitary. Due to the above findings on chest x ray , High resolution CT scan of the chest was done which showed multiple Cavitary pulmonary nodules with adjacent consolidation.

Subsequent CT guided needle biopsy was done and it was negative for any form of malignancy, however, cultures from the Cavitary lesions grew Strep intermedius.

Trans-esophageal echocardiogram was negative for vegetation hence ruled out associated Endocarditis.

The patient was started on Ampicillin plus sulbactam with eventual clinical improvement and discharged home on Amoxicillin with clavulanic acid.

Growth of Streptococcus intermedius in culture.  
Gram stain appearance of Streptococcus intermedius.

DISCUSSION

• The SAG are different from other Streptococcus in their ability to form abscesses and potential to cause fatal multi organ abscesses in immunocompromised and chronically ill individuals. Based on published case series, predisposing factors were present in 80% of patients and included the following: pneumonia, excess alcohol intake, previous thoracic surgical procedures, and malignancy. Laboratory features of S milleri infection were leukocytosis, neutrophilia, anemia, abnormal liver function tests, and hypoalbuminemia.

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• Streptococcus intermedius can cause serious pulmonary infections including Cavitary lung lesions in an otherwise young healthy man and lung infections have known to carry high mortality and morbidity. Hence it is important to biopsy and culture lung lesions as it is possible to treat these infections effectively with beta lactam group of antibiotics.

REFERENCES:


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