

CASE REPORT

Congenital pulmonary airway malformation

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Abstract: *Background:* Congenital cystic adenomatoid malformations (CCAMs) are considered rare developmental anomalies of the lower respiratory tract. These are hamartomatous abnormalities of the lung with adenomatoid proliferation of cysts resembling bronchioles and usually occur sporadically and unilaterally with single lobe involvement.

Method: A 6-year-old girl was admitted to our center because of prolonged fever and non-productive cough lasting 3 months before admission.

Results: The only other complaint was night sweating. She did not have dyspnea and did not mention any respiratory symptoms. On examination, coarse crackle and decreased lung sounds in the left side were detected. White blood cell count was 9.100 / μ L, hemoglobin was 11.2 g/dL, erythrocyte sedimentation rate was 50 and C-reactive protein was 1+. IgA and IgM for hydatid cyst were tested and both were raised (14 and 1.4, respectively).

Conclusion: The patient underwent surgery, with the probable diagnosis of hydatid cyst but in operating room diagnosis was changed and it was adenomatoid cystic malformation. In follow-up, she was in good general condition without any post-surgical complaints (Fig. 3, Ref. 11). Full Text in PDF www.elis.sk.

Key words: cystic adenomatoid malformation of lung, congenital, pulmonary, pneumonectomy.

Congenital cystic adenomatoid malformations (CCAMs) are considered rare developmental anomalies of the lower respiratory tract (1). These lesions are also called congenital pulmonary airway malformations (CPAMs), due to some types being non-cystic. CCAMs are non-hereditary, hamartomatous lung abnormalities with adenomatoid proliferation of cysts resembling bronchioles and usually occur sporadically and unilaterally with single lobe involvement (2).

CCAM's formation is not related to factors such as race, age or exposure (1), but occurs more often in males with a ratio of 1.8 to 1 and associated anomalies are rare (3).

Data from large population registries suggest an incidence of congenital lung cysts in the range of 1 per 8,300 to 35,000 live births. Large cyst subtypes account for about 70 percent of CCAM incidence (1).

Herein, a girl with history of prolonged fever and non-productive cough is presented in whom the diagnosis of CCAM was confirmed.

Case report

A 6-year-old girl was admitted to the Mofid Children Hospital, Tehran, Iran because of prolonged fever and non-productive cough lasting 3 months before admission. She was referred from Lorestan province. The continuous cough would cause her to vomit and become cyanotic. The other complaint was night sweating. She did not have dyspnea and any respiratory symptoms before and this was the first time she experienced such symptoms. On examination, coarse crackle and decreased lung sounds in the left side were detected. After antibiotic administration the temperature reached to 37 °C with respiratory rate of 18/minute, pulse rate of 90/minute and blood pressure of 110/70 mmHg.



Fig. 1. Left-sided hyper-aeration and left lung collapse on chest X-ray.

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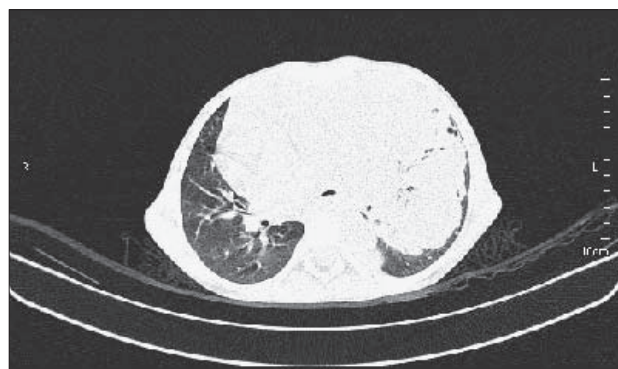


Fig. 2. Multiloculated cystic lesion in left hemithorax with mass effect and midline shift on computed tomography scan.

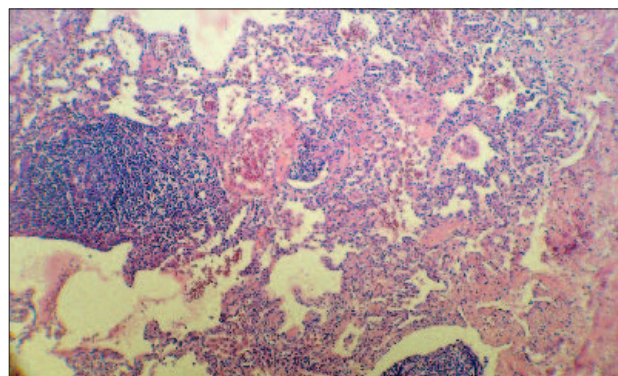
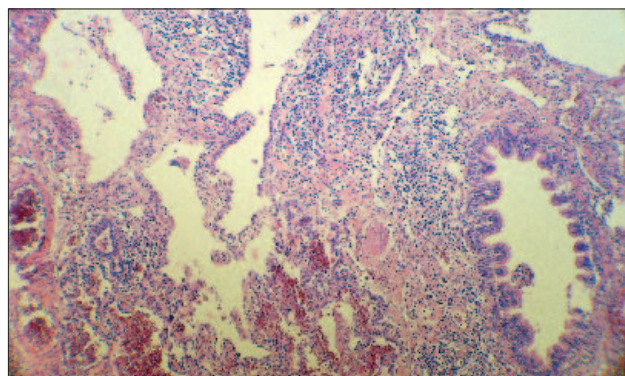


Fig. 3. Histopathological findings showing randomly distributed irregular bronchioli-like structures are separated by dilated alveolus-like structures; all are lined by cuboidal epithelial cell imparting an adenomatoid (or gland-like) appearance.

The results of laboratory tests were as follows: white blood cell count (WBC) 9,100/ μ L (which increased to 18,500/ μ L in the next test) with 85 % polymorphonuclear cells, 10 % lymphocytes, and 3 % monocytes. Hemoglobin was 11.2 g/dL. Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) was 50 and C-reactive protein was 1+. Because of hydatid cyst suspicion IgA and IgM for hydatid cyst were tested, which both were raised (14 and 1.4, respectively).

Ceftriaxone and vancomycin treatment were started in the patient at the time of admission; albendazole was also administered based on the positive IFA test and hydatid cyst suspicion.

In the chest X-ray, left-sided hyper-aeration and left lung collapse were seen (Fig. 1). In computed tomography scan, there was a multiloculated cystic lesion in left hemithorax (172×130×92 mm in size) with mass effect and midline shift. Left lower lobe collapse was also seen (Fig. 2).

The patient underwent surgery with suspicion to hydatid cyst, but the diagnosis of adenomatoid cystic malformation was suggested in the operating room. A thoracotomy and left pneumonectomy were performed with subsequent placement of a chest tube. Finally, the diagnosis of type 3 adenomatoid cystic malformation was confirmed based on histopathological report (Fig. 3).

In follow-up, she was in good general condition without any post-surgical complaints.

Discussion

Congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation of the lung, also known as congenital pulmonary airway malformation, is a rare condition, characterized by an excessive overgrowth of the terminal bronchioles (4), which leads to enlargement of the lobe and suppression of the alveoli (5). The development of cystic lesions is controversial, but probably results from abnormal separation of localized portions of primitive tracheobronchial tree from the branching embryonic lung and a cessation of bronchomaturation and concomitant overgrowth of mesenchymal elements, which probably occur at about the 6–7th week of fetal development and which produce the adenomatoid appearances of the anomaly (6–8).

The large cyst in CCAM can lead to a mediastinal shift, which can exert pressure on the heart (5), as occurred in our case. The interesting thing in our case was her chest radiographs which showed radiographic findings similar to hydatid cysts. This radiographic image as well as positive IgA and IgM caused the primary diagnosis of hydatid cysts in the patients.

Infants with CCAM could be asymptomatic, but some suffer from progressive respiratory distress, including tachypnea, grunting, retractions and cyanosis (3). However, our patient had none of these complaints.

The appropriate management of congenital cystic lung disease remains a matter for debate; however, surgery seems to be the treatment of choice to remove CCAM, because of the risk of morbidity from infection, pneumothorax and even malignancy (9). Lobectomy is preferred over segmentectomy, because of the difficulty in distinguishing the extent of CCPM from normal parenchyma. However, pneumonectomy was performed in our patient, because the lesion was large and nearly all the left lung was cystic. Complications of operation for congenital lung lesions include emphysema, bronchopleural fistula, pleural effusion, and recanalization of the sequestration artery. Overall prognosis depends greatly upon the size of the lung mass and the pathophysiologic involvement. In follow-up of our patient, she had no post surgical symptoms and her general conditions were great. It should be noted that timely clinical suspicion to the disease and appropriate imaging followed by prompt surgical management are the keys to prevent further complications and even death in affected cases (9). Therefore pediatricians should be aware of such condition, while good prognosis of patients depends on timely diagnosis and good care (10). Although the management still remains controversial, early surgical excision is recommended by several authors (8).

Although routine karyotyping in all amniotic fluid obtained from the child after birth could be diagnostic, it is not cost-benefit as of extremely low incidence of chromosomal anomalies associated with CCAM (11).

In conclusion, our case demonstrates that there is a chance of misdiagnosis in patients with congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation of the lung due to radiologic similarities with hydatidic cysts; therefore more careful evaluation of patients is needed to avoid such misdiagnosis.

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