Spontaneous Pneumothorax Secondary to Bronchial Chondroma

Dian-bo Cao¹, Shu-cheng Hua¹, Si-rui Yang² and Chun-sheng Feng²

Key words: chondroma, endobronchial tumor, MSCT

(Intern Med 50: 525-526, 2011)

(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.50.4520)

Picture 1.

A 20-year-old woman presented with repeated cough for a duration of 3 years, and chest pain and breathlessness for 1 week. Physical examination revealed reduced air entry on the right side of the chest with crepitations in the right base.

¹Department of Radiology, The First Hospital of Jilin University, China and ²Department of Anesthesiology, The First Hospital of Jilin University, China

Received for publication September 11, 2010; Accepted for publication October 29, 2010

Correspondence to Dr. Chun-sheng Feng, fengcs1971@sina.com.cn

Endobronchial tuberculosis had been proposed based on the CT findings (Picture 1a) and standard therapy regimen was given for 8 months. On admission, MSCT revealed a calcified mass with a smooth surface occluding the right main bronchus, right pneumothorax, obstructive pneumonia (Picture 1b-c). On fiberoptic bronchoscopy, a tumor mass was found blocking the right main bronchus (Picture 1d). Tumor enucleation was performed through right fifth intercostal posterolateral thoracotomy. Histopathological examination of the resected specimen showed typical chondroma.

Benign tumors of the tracheobronchial tree, comprising approximately 20% of all lung tumors, are much less common than malignant airway neoplasms. Bronchial chondroma arises from the cartilaginous rings of large bronchus and usually causes infective symptoms owing to bronchial obstruction. Other than the above symptoms in the present case, spontaneous pneumothorax, as a complication of bron-

chial chondroma which is rarely reported in the literature, also occurred. MSCT is an optional modality to detect neoplastic calcification. Calcification in an airway lesion may be found in cartilaginous tumors such as chondroma, chondroblastoma and chondrosarcoma. Unfortunately, MSCT imaging features cannot readily distinguish between chondroma and chondrosarcoma. Bronchial chondromas are rare benign tumours of the bronchial tree. Bronchoscopic resection offers an alternative to surgical resection in patients with benign endobronchial tumors. If the bronchiectatic and destructive changes in the lung parenchyma are located distal to the mass, pneumonectomy is necessary.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

Abbreviation: MSCT: multi-detector spiral computed tomography