Brain Abnormality in Mild Legionellosis

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A 37-year-old man presented with fever and headache. He had no objective neurological abnormalities. He had a few respiratory symptoms without hypoxia, and chest X-ray showed a slight ground-glass shadow in the right lower lobe (Picture 1). He had diabetes mellitus and a 36-pack-year smoking history. Since he may have been exposed to Legionella spp.-infected aerosol, urinary antigen test was performed; the result was positive, and legionellosis was diagnosed. Admission diffusion-weighted and T2-weighted brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed high intensity in the splenium of the corpus callosum (SCC) (Picture 2 Left, diffusion-weighted image). In previous reports, brain MRI was performed in cases with objective neurological abnormalities (1). This is the first reported case of legionellosis with SCC abnormality without objective neurological abnormalities. Following 2 weeks of anti-Legionella treatment, his symptoms improved, and the high intensity in SCC disappeared (Picture 2 Right). The SCC abnormality may be unrelated to severity.

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Reference

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