Bronchopneumonia Caused by *Corynebacterium pseudodiphtheriticum*

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Picture 1.

Picture 2.

An 80-year-old woman who was receiving treatment for asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease developed a fever and productive cough. Her sputum was purulent and computed tomography revealed findings of bronchopneumonia in the right middle lobe (Picture 1). We performed Gram staining of the sputum, a microscopic examination of which revealed principally Gram-positive bacilli in the form of a “V” that were ingested by neutrophils (Picture 2). We diagnosed the patient with corynebacterium pneumonia based on the characteristic findings of Gram’s staining. *Corynebacterium pseudodiphtheriticum* was subsequently cultured from the patient’s sputum. In patients with airway diseases, such as asthma and cystic fibrosis, *Corynebacterium*

pseudodiphtheriticum can be a bacteria responsible for bronchopneumonia (1). *Corynebacterium pseudodiphtheriticum* is a normal inhabitant of the oral cavity. We believe that both culture results and sputum smear findings are important for identifying the responsible bacteria.

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

Reference

1. Bittar F, Cassagne C, Bosdure E, et al. Outbreak of *Corynebacterium pseudodiphtheriticum* infection in cystic fibrosis patients, France. *Emerg Infect Dis* **16**: 1231-1236, 2010.