Interesting Radiological Images of a Tuberculous Abscess

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A 77-year-old man with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease was referred to our hospital due to right chest pain. Thoracic computed tomography (CT) revealed a tumor in the right chest wall, with enhancement in the rim only (Picture A). A diagnosis could not be established based on the material aspirated from the tumor. ¹⁸F-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG)-positron emission tomography/CT (PET/CT) was performed due to the possibility of malignancy. FDG-PET/CT demonstrated intense accumulation in the rim of the tumor (Picture B). Surgical resection of the tumor was performed because malignancy could not be excluded. The tumor was found to be a tuberculous abscess in the chest wall based on the pathological findings (Picture C, D) and polymerase chain reaction results for Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

It is well known that FDG accumulates in tuberculous lesions (1). However, this case is clinically significant because the FDG-PET/CT findings coincided with the pathological findings.

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