A Pulmonary Nodule Exhibiting Temporary Spontaneous Regression

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A 61-year-old man with a smoking habit was referred to our hospital due to the presence of a pulmonary nodule that was observed on thoracic computed tomography (CT) performed in September 2010 (Picture 1A). At two months after the first CT was performed, the nodule had obviously regressed (Picture 1B). As the size of the nodule had not changed in March 2011, observation at our hospital was discontinued in accordance with the management of small pulmonary nodules (1). However, the tumor size increased again in July 2011 (Picture 1C), with a further increase and the formation of a cavity in April 2012 (Picture 1D). The patient was referred to our hospital again and underwent surgical resection. The tumor was proven to be squamous cell carcinoma (Picture 2).

There is one report of the spontaneous regression of pulmonary nodules following smoking reduction (2); however,

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Picture 1.
regression occurred without smoking reduction in the present case. Although it is unclear whether the patient’s lung cancer spontaneously regressed or was incidentally hidden in the nodule, this case is clinically significant.

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References