Three Cases of Tuberculosis in the Neck

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We report herein on three cases of tuberculosis in the neck region experienced during a recent 1-year period. Two cases started with lymphadenopathy and the other started with subcutaneous abscess. Examinations and diagnosis for the tuberculosis were delayed for several weeks, because neither respiratory symptoms nor past and family histories for the tuberculosis were seen in any of the cases. In the examinations to make a diagnosis of tuberculosis, QuantiFERON[®] TB-2G (QFT) was effective in all three cases. After the diagnosis, all cases were treated with combination chemotherapy of four anti-tuberculosis drugs and the clinical symptoms gradually decreased. Bearing tuberculosis in mind is important in patients with extended lymphadenopathy and infectious regions in the neck.

Keywords : tuberculosis, QuantiFERON[®] TB-2G, extrapulmonary tuberculosis, tuberculous lymphadenitis

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CT scan showing a ring-enhanced lymph node (arrow)

CT imaging showing subcutaneous swelling (arrow: incision scar)

Laboratory data

Case	Pathology	Smear	Culture	PCR	QFT	Cytology	Lung disease
1	+	–	–	+	+	Calss I	–
2	+	–	–	NA	+	NA	–
3	NA	+	+	+	+	NA	+

PCR, polymerase chain reaction; QFT, QuantiFERON; NA, not available