Management of bronchial foreign bodies

松 本 桂太郎・山 崎 直 哉・土 谷 智 史・宮 崎 拓 郎・
朝 重 耕 一・扇 玉 秀 順・渡 邊 洋 之 助・永 安 武

長崎大学大学院腫瘍外科

The aspiration of foreign bodies into the bronchus sometimes occurs in elderly people. Foreign bodies in the airway not only cause chronic cough and pneumonia, but may also result in life-threatening conditions. We describe three cases of bronchial foreign bodies which were artificial teeth in two patients and a fish bone in one patient. Foreign bodies were located in the right in two cases and in the left in one case. Artificial teeth were dislodged during dental treatments. Bronchoscopy with a flexible scope was performed for all patients under local anesthesia first, but foreign bodies could not be removed. Then, rigid bronchoscope was performed and foreign bodies were removed in two cases, but in one case removal failed. In that case, the foreign body has remained and patient has been observed in clinic without complications thus far. For the treatment bronchial foreign bodies, early diagnosis is very important, because inflammatory granulation due to long-term impaction of foreign bodies complicates their difficult. Overall, use of a rigid bronchoscope to remove foreign bodies is very useful because it does not require lung resection.