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Rasmussen's pseudoaneurysm- case report

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Abstract: Rasmussen's pseudoaneurysm- Case Report

Background: Pulmonary aneurysms and pseudoaneurysms have various etiologies; however, the term Rasmussen's pseudoaneurysm refers specifically to a focal dilatation of a branch of the pulmonary artery into adjacent tuberculous cavity. The incidence of such tuberculosis related pulmonary vascular complication is extremely rare, hence, under recognized by many physicians. Management of pulmonary pseudoaneurysms is challenging as they present by life-threatening hemoptysis. Furthermore, contrary to the most causes of massive hemoptysis their bleeding is of pulmonary rather than bronchial artery origin. Prompt diagnosis and early interventions are needed as a very high mortality rate is associated with this illness.

Case description: We are reporting on a case of a young male who was presented to our hospital with recurrent episodes of massive hemoptysis and was diagnosed to have pulmonary tuberculosis. Despite being actively treated, his hemoptysis persisted. We describe in this case the role of different diagnostic modalities and the available therapeutic options.

Conclusion: Rasmussen's pseudoaneurysm is rare and potentially lethal pulmonary vascular complication of tuberculosis. It should be considered in the differential diagnosis of hemoptysis in patients known or suspected to have pulmonary tuberculosis. In such cases, multidetector computed tomography (MDCT) scanning is the investigation of choice to confirm the diagnosis and to localize the source of bleeding prior to the therapeutic interventions. Head to head comparison between interventional radiology procedures and surgery in treatment of pulmonary pseudoaneurysms is lacking, thus, choice depend on the availability and local expertise.

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