DIFFUSE PANBRONCHIOLITIS - A CASE REPORT AND LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

Diffuse panbronchiolitis (DPB) is a chronic progressive obstructive airway disease. Clinically, DPB is manifested by productive cough and dyspnea and commonly combined with chronic sinusitis. Despite that the etiology of DPB is unknown, macrolide treatment is usually effective. A case of 45 year-old Taiwanese patient female who had DPB was reported by us. The patient’s symptoms of cough and dyspnea were controlled within four months after the initiation of macrolides treatment of clarithromycin. Marked improvements on pulmonary function testing, chest radiography and high resolution computed tomography were also apparent. It may be distinguished between DPB and traditional chronic obstructive pulmonary disease by its rapid progression and the associated development of bronchiectasis and respiratory failure. It can be suggested that macrolide of clarithromycin is an effective therapy for DPB.

Key words: Diffuse panbronchiolitis, Macrolide

Introduction

Diffuse panbronchiolitis (DPB) is an inflammatory lung disease with unknown cause, and the shown symptoms include wheezing, dyspnea, severe cough, excessive sputum production, hypoxia and chronic sinusitis. This disease may occur at any age, and it is more common in males. DPB is a severe advanced obstructive type of bronchiolitis. If left untreated, DPB quickly aggravates to bronchiectasis, an irreversible lung condition that ultimately leads to respiratory failure and death.¹² DPB is idiopathic, nonetheless, the precisely physiological, environmental or pathogenic causes of the disease are unknown. It is believed that Human leukocyte antigen system (HLA) is the genetic factor underlying DPB.³

It may be distinguished DPB from traditional chronic obstructive pulmonary disease by its excessively development into bronchiectasis.¹² Further distinguishing features of DPB include the presence of lesion-like nodules in the bronchioles of both lungs, inflammation in all tissue layers of the respiratory bronchioles, and its nearly exclusive prevalence among individuals...