A case of histoplasmosis mimicking tuberculosis

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patients who expired were suffering from schizophrenia. One was a medical student who used benzodiazepine for DSP. The other was a 35 years old female who used OP. It was her second attempt; previously she unsuccessfully tried to cut her throat with a knife.

Of the 17 patients who used OP for DSP, 88.23% (n=15) had suicidal intention, (p=0.004). No other statistically significant association was noted between various patient characteristics and intention for DSP.

**Conclusion**

In our experience DSP was common in young females. Majority of DSP patients were educated up to 10th grade, were unmarried, resident of urban area, occupation wise household related, belonged to middle class, and had suicidal intention. Benzodiazepines and OP were commonly used for DSP. DSP with OP compounds was significantly associated with suicidal intention. Patients with poor outcome suffered from mental disorders.

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**Case Report**

**A case of Histoplasmosis Mimicking Tuberculosis**

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**Abstract**

Drug resistance to Tuberculosis is an emerging problem but proper exhaustive workup needs to be done before confirming the diagnosis. The case of a 5 year old male child who presented with low grade fever and lymphadenopathy and was being treated with anti TB drugs with no satisfactory response is presented. A detail workup including a biopsy gave the diagnosis of histoplasmosis.

**Introduction**

Histoplasmosis is not commonly seen in our region. It is frequently encountered in people who come in contact with domestic birds and fowl. In Pakistan, the cases usually belong to the rural areas. The presentation is upper respiratory symptoms of cough and fever. There may be associated lymphadenopathy. The patients are commonly diagnosed as tuberculosis as even if a biopsy is done it would give the findings of chronic granulomatous inflammation. Appropriate cultures and fungal stains should be done to establish the diagnosis.1

**Case Report**

A five year old male was referred to Aga Khan Medical University with history of fever and weight loss for the past five months. The patient was being treated for tuberculosis since 3 months and was not responding to therapy. Physical examination revealed a pale anxious child. No lymph nodes were palpable. Ultra-sonography and computed tomography of the abdomen was done which showed enlarged mediastinal and abdominal lymph nodes. Multiple Para-aortic and mesenteric lymph nodes were reported on CT scans. CT guided biopsy of abdominal lymph node was performed and cultures and PCR for mycobacterium was requested.

Histological examination revealed tissue showing loose aggregates of epithelioid histiocytes forming granulomas. Some of the histiocytes contained intra cytoplasmic vacuoles. There were large areas of necrosis. No abnormal lymphoid infiltrate was seen. Fungal stains with / PAS and diastase showed numerous fungal yeast forms which were both intra and extra cellular. The spores were variable sized ranging from 3 to 5 microns. A pseudo capsule was also identified. There was thin based budding and the morphology was also evaluated by microbiologist who concurred with the diagnosis of histoplasmosis.

**Discussion**

Histoplasma capsulatum infection is acquired by inhalation of dust particles from soil contaminated by bird
or bat droppings that contain small spores (microconidia) the infectious form of the fungus. Like Mycobacterium H. capsulatum is an intracellular parasite of macrophages. The clinical presentation also strikingly resembles that of tuberculosis, including, a self-limiting and often latent primary pulmonary involvement which may result in coin lesions on chest radiography; chronic progressive secondary lung disease which is localized to the lung apices and causes cough fever and night sweats, and finally a widely disseminated involvement. The pathogenesis of Histoplasmosis is incompletely understood. It is known that macrophages are main target of infection. H. capsulatum may be internalized into macrophages after opsonization or by a discrete mechanism that appears specific to this fungus. The fungus expresses heat shock protein (HSP60) on the cell surface that binds to beta 2 integrins on the surface of macrophages. Histoplasma yeasts so phagocytosed multiply within the phagolysosome and lyses the cell. The released triggers the helper T cells. These secrete interferon gamma which in turn acts on histiocytes to produce epithelioid granulomas; these undergo coagulative necrosis. Differentiation from tuberculosis, sarcoidosis and coccidiodomycosis requires identification of 3-5 cm thin walled yeast forms.

The diagnosis is established by culture, identification of the fungus in tissue can also be useful. In addition serologic tests for antigen and antibodies are also available. Antigen detection in body fluids is most useful in the early stages, because antibodies are formed two to six weeks after infection.

**Conclusion**

Histoplasmosis is a cause of lymphadenopathy and should be kept in mind when investigating lymphadenopathy with fever. A tissue biopsy and culture is highly recommended.

**References**


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**Case Report**

**An unusual cause of haemoperitoneum in a child.**

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**Abstract**

We present a case of haemoperitoneum in a child, who presented with signs of acute abdomen with subacute intestinal obstruction. Abdominal paracentesis aspirated fresh blood. Ultrasound and CT scan abdomen showed loculated haemoperitoneum. A definitive diagnosis could not be made and an exploratory laparotomy was undertaken which revealed a large cystic lymphangioma of greater omentum with acute massive spontaneous haemorrhage. It was excised in toto along with the involved omentum leading to excellent recovery. Abdominal cystic lymphangioma first presenting as a spontaneous, life threatening haemorrhage has to our knowledge, not been reported before. It may have to be included in the differential diagnosis of acute haemoperitoneum.

**Introduction**

Cystic lymphangioma is a rare benign congenital condition arising from abnormal cystic dilatation of lymph channels. The commonest site is the neck but rare cases have been reported in unusual sites including the abdomen. Abdominal lymphangioma is basically a malformation of the mesenteric and/or retroperitoneal lymphatics. Clinical presentation is variable and may be misleading. We present a unique case where the child presented with massive intracystic haemorrhage, mimicking a tense haemoperitoneum, which required urgent transfusions and laparotomy.

**Case Report**

A 9 year old boy presented at his local hospital with sudden tense abdomen, with vomiting, colicky abdominal pain and constipation. An ultrasound examination showed fluid in the abdomen and intra-peritoneal haemorrhage was suspected. He was managed conservatively with transfusions, intravenous fluids and antibiotics. As the child...