Cavitary Pulmonary Metastases and Aspergillosis: An Autopsy Case

Takahiro Takazono, Koichi Izumikawa, Naofumi Suyama and Shigeru Kohno

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A 54-year-old man was admitted to our hospital due to exertional dyspnea. Chest radiography and CT revealed a large, thick-walled cavitary mass and a hydropneumothorax in the right lung in addition to a right hilar tumor and multiple small, thin-walled cavitary nodules (Picture 1). A transbronchial direct vision biopsy of the stenotic lesion of the right bronchus truncus intermedius revealed squamous cell carcinoma. The pleural effusion yielded *Aspergillus fumiga*

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1Department of Internal Medicine, Nagasaki Municipal Hospital, Japan and 2Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Japan

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Correspondence to Dr. Takahiro Takazono, takahiro.takazono@gmail.com
The patient died despite all efforts, and an autopsy revealed squamous cell carcinoma in the right hilar tumor and multiple, thin-walled cavitary nodules (Picture 2). However, the thick-walled cavitary mass exhibited no malignant findings, and proliferation of *Aspergillus* hyphae was observed within the cavity lumen without hyphal invasion into the lung parenchyma (Picture 3). Therefore, the patient was diagnosed with chronic cavitary pulmonary aspergillosis and *Aspergillus* empyema as a complicating disease.

Cavitary pulmonary metastasis of squamous cell lung carcinoma is uncommon (1). The present patient was immunocompromised due to advanced lung cancer; therefore, *Aspergillus* infection in a preexisting cavity may have led to the patient’s deteriorated condition (2).

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References


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