

Case Report

Volume 12 Issue 1 – December 2017
DOI: 10.19080/GJO.2017.12.555829

Glob J Otolaryngol

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A Case Presentation of Sarcoidosis Larynx



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Submission: November 25, 2017; Published: December 06, 2017

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Abstract

Sarcoidosis is a multisystem disease, which rarely involves the larynx. Which is mostly limited to involvement of supraglottis-epiglottis, Aryepiglottic folds and false vocal cords? Diagnosis is by exclusion of other granulomatous infection and diseases, and histopathological confirmation. In this case report patient presented with change in voice, snoring, diagnosis was made after excluding other differential diagnosis, confirmed by histopathology.

Introduction

Sarcoidosis is a multisystem disease of unknown aetiology, usually affecting the respiratory tract and other organs, and is characterized by the formation of nonnecrotizing epithelioid granulomas [1]. Incidence rate in US population is 10 people per 100,000 per year [2]. In india reported prevalence of sarcoidosis is 10-12 cases/100,000 new registration annually at a respiratory unit at Kolkata and 61.2/100,000 new cases registered in respiratory unit of the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest institute (VPCI), Delhi [3].

The central part of a granuloma is composed of macrophages, modified macrophages, epithelioid cells and giant cells, with scattered, predominately CD4+ T, lymphocytes between them [4]. Caseous necrosis is absent, while central necrosis, as a granular acidophilic focus without nuclear detritus, may be found [5]. It rarely involves larynx as extra pulmonary sites. Common presentation for laryngeal sarcoidosis are dysphonia, dysphagia, and dry cough, rarely can it cause total laryngeal obstruction leading to stridor [6]. We are presenting a case report which presented to us with complaint of change of voice, snoring and frequent arousal from sleep.

Case Description

A 25 year old female was referred by chest physician with complaints of change in voice and snoring and frequent arousal from sleep in night for 1 year. Patient was not having any complaint of fever, generalized weakness, palpable swelling in neck. Patient's general profile was height 161cm, weight 39 kg, BMI- 15 kg/m². For these complains polysomnography and CECT chest were done by chest physician. AHI index was 14.5, with average heart during sleep of 71, highest heart rate during sleep of 173, average O₂

saturation while in Non-REM- 98%, and approximate minimum value of O₂ 87%, desaturation index 2.1, average heart rate during sleep 71 BPM, and highest heart rate during sleep of 173 BPM. CECT chest showed centrilobular nodules in right upper lobe, mainly in anterior and apical segment, and associated right hilar lymphadenopathy. After receiving the patient endoscopic examination of larynx was done, which showed u/l thickening of uvula left side, thickening of epiglottis turning to turban shape, aryepiglottic fold, and false vocal cords, both the true vocal cords were mobile, diagnostic nasal endoscopy was insignificant neck and upper mediastinum done was suggestive of prominent faucial tonsil, thick uvula and epiglottis, B/L aryepiglottic fold and false vocal cords. On the basis of clinical picture differential diagnosis of tuberculosis, amyloidosis and sarcoidosis were made. Biopsy was taken from uvula being very accessible for biopsy (Figures 1-3).

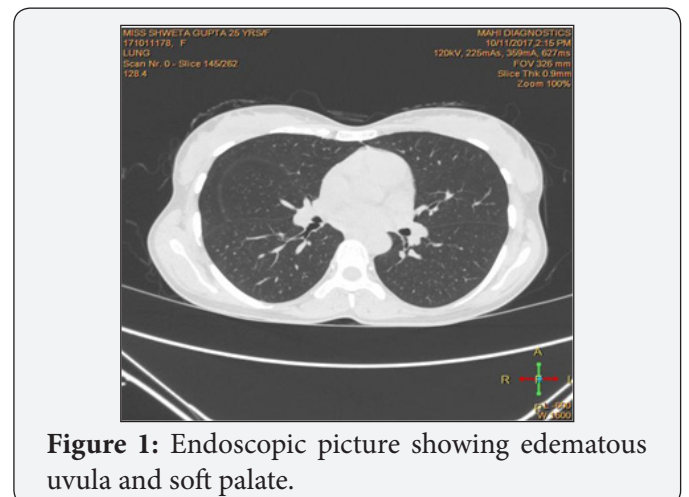


Figure 1: Endoscopic picture showing edematous uvula and soft palate.



Figure 2: Endoscopic picture showing edematous aryepiglottic.



Figure 3: Endoscopic picture showing edematous aryepiglottic.

CT Film Showing Hilar Lymphadenopathy

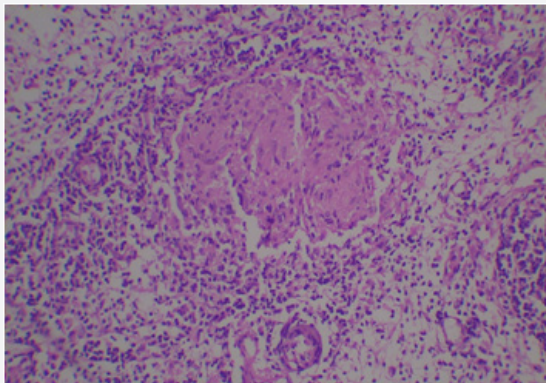


Figure 4: Epithelioid granuloma (low power image).

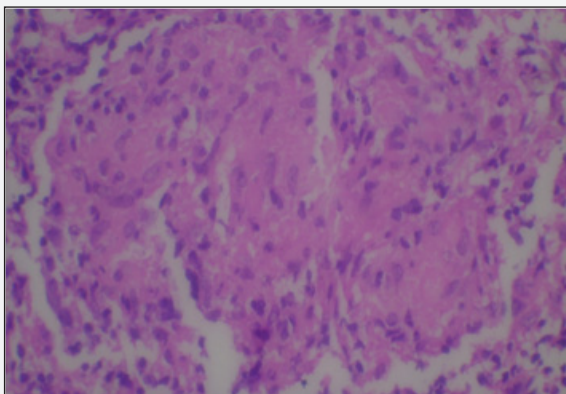


Figure 5: Epithelioid granuloma (high power image).

Biopsy on histopathology showed tissue lined by stratified squamous epithelium with subepithelial tissue showing edema with moderate mixed inflammation predominantly lymphocytes, plasma cells and polymorphs. Few discrete granulomas devoid of caseous necrosis and composed of epithelioid like histiocytes, few granuloma within germinal Centre of lymphoid follicles. Serum calcium level was 11.2 mg/dl. Serum ACE level was 68 microgram/Ltr and Vitamin D level was 140ng/ml. Diagnosis of laryngeal

sarcoidosis was made. Tuberculosis, amyloidosis, and fungal infections were ruled out. Diagnosis of laryngeal sarcoidosis was made on the basis of clinical, radiological and histopathological findings. Patient was put on oral and inhalational steroids. Patient showed subjective and hematological improvement, in the form of improvement of voice, and sleeping habits. Within 2 weeks of starting treatment, although there was no significant improvement in endoscopy picture. Improvement may also be due to partial resection of uvula. Patient is in regular follow-up (Figures 4 & 5).

Discussion

The Joint statement of American oracic Society (ATS)/European Respiratory Society (ERS)/World Association for Sarcoidosis and other Granulomatous Diseases (WASOG) defines sarcoidosis as a multisystem disorder of unknown cause(s) [7]. Laryngeal sarcoidosis is an underdiagnosed disease, whether for lack of specific detecting tests, turning the diagnosis into an exclusion one, or for the diversity of criteria to be analysed, so that the diagnostic suspicion can be confirmed [8]. Laryngeal disease presents with hoarseness, dyspnoea, dysphagia, chronic cough, obstructive sleep apnoea, and airway obstruction, which could progress to upper airway obstruction and emergency cricothyrotomy.

In laryngeal disease, the supraglottis region, mostly the epiglottis, is typically involved, followed by the arytenoids, aryepiglottic folds, and false vocal folds [9]. This major impairment of the supraglottis probably occurs due to the big amount of lymphatic vases in this area, which are stretched by replacing the architecture by sarcoid deposits or subcutaneous foci of the disease [10]. In our case patient presented with change in voice, snoring and frequent arousal from sleep. Diagnostic nasal endoscopy was normal in our patient but she was having oedematous epiglottis, aryepiglottic fold, arytenoid and false vocal cord. Our patient was also having oedema of uvula also, contrary to other studies. For a sarcoidosis diagnosis, three criteria must be met: compatible clinical-radiological findings, histological sample represented by non-necrotizing granulomas and exclusion of other granulomatoses or diseases having similar findings [11].

In our patient clinical-radiological finding gave us suspicion of tuberculosis, amyloidosis, fungal infection or sarcoidosis. Histopathological examination from biopsy from uvula was suggestive of granulomatous disease, ZN staining and PAS staining were negative. Tuberculosis, amyloidosis and fungal infection were ruled out. Granulomas were noncaseating composed of epitheloid like histiocytes, occasional multinucleate foreign body and langhan's giant cells. Treatment regimen includes systemic steroids, intralesional steroids for well localised lesions, laser resection, surgical excision, low dose radiation and tracheostomy. Recent literature has suggested an improvement with use of inhaled steroid and Clofazimine [12]. We started oral steroid for the patient. Patient is subjectively improved, and is in regular followup.

Conclusion

Sarcoidosis is a multisystem disorder, which rarely involves larynx as primary organ. It should be kept in mind as differential diagnosis. As if diagnosed, main management is steroid.

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DOI: 10.19080/GJO.2017.12.555829

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