Bronchoscopic features of endobronchial tuberculosis

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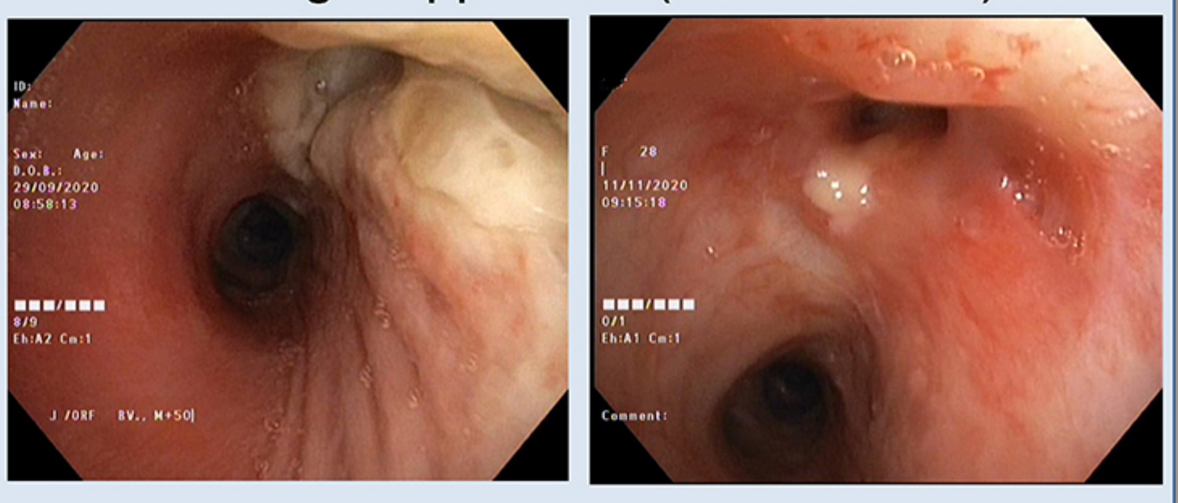
Introduction

Endobronchial Tuberculosis (EBTB) is a particular form of TB difficult to recognize, often dangerous through its consequences and potentially a source of infection in the community[1].

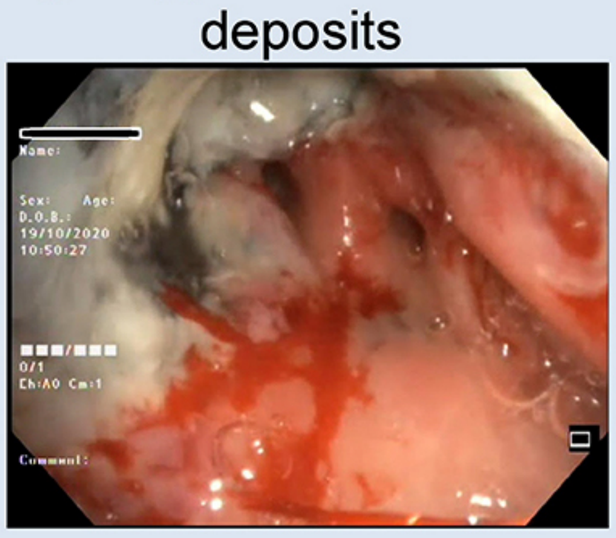
Classification of EBTB: (I) nonspecific bronchitic (tracheobronchial mucosa only is mildly swollen and/or hyperemia); (II) edematous-hyperemic (tracheobronchial mucosa is severely swollen and hyperemic); (III) actively caseating (tracheobronchial mucosa is swollen, hyperemic and covered with a large amount of whitish cheese-like material); (IV) granular (tracheobronchial mucosa appears severely inflammatory and is scattered by rice-like nodules); (V) ulcerative (tracheobronchial mucosa ulcerate); (VI) tumorous (hyperplastic focal tissue shapes, intraluminal mass like tumor); and (VII) fibrostenotic (tracheobronchial lumen narrows due to fibrous hyperplasia and contracture) [2].

Results

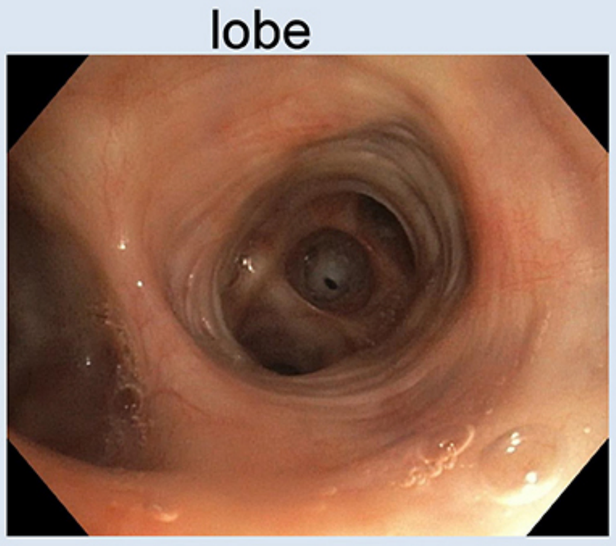
Case I: extensive active caseating EBTB of the right upper lobe(at T0 and T1)



Case II: extensive active caseating EBTB of the right upper lobe with antracotic deposits



Case III: fibrostenotic lesion of the mediobasal bronchus of left lower lobe



Summary of case details

	sex	age	Time of bronchoscopy	Resistence pattern
Case I	F	30	T0 at T1	-
Case II	F	76	T0	-
Case III	F	43	T6	-

Conclusions

Endobronchial tuberculosis is a seriuos form of tuberculosis with high morbidity and significant mortality. The bronchoscopic aspect is hard to differentiate with tumoral involvement and as such it warrants endobronchial biopsy.

The treatment modalities are geared towards conservator antibiotic treatment and possible corticoterapy.

References

1. Casali, L., Crapa, M.E. Endobronchial Tubercolosis: a peculiar feature of TB often underdiagnosed. Multidiscip Respir Med 7, 35 (2012).
2. Chung HS, Lee JH. Bronchoscopic assessment of the evolution of endobronchial tuberculosis. Chest. 2000 Feb;117(2):385-92. doi: 10.1378/chest.117.2.385. PMID: 10669679.