

A case of the Lemierre syndrome caused by *Corynebacterium* species associated with septic pulmonary emboli and bilateral empyema

Satoshi TAKEDA ^{1),2)}, Makoto TANAKA ²⁾, Masaru KODAMA ^{1),2)},
Takanori AKAGI ^{1),2)}, Hiroyuki MIYAZAKI ¹⁾, Masafumi HIRATSUKA ³⁾,
Akinori IWASAKI ³⁾, Kentaro WATANABE ²⁾, Nobuhiko NAGATA ¹⁾

¹⁾ *Department of Respiratory Medicine, Chikushi Hospital, Fukuoka University*

²⁾ *Department of Respiratory Medicine, Fukuoka University Hospital*

³⁾ *Department of Thoracic Surgery, School of Medicine, Fukuoka University Hospital*

Abstract

Nine days before admission, a 34-year-old male took a commercial analgesic because of a sore throat and malaise. Since the symptoms did not improve, he visited our hospital, was diagnosed to have a common cold and was prescribed a cold preparation. One day before admission, he again visited our hospital with complaints of left chest to upper arm pain on inspiration and worsening of malaise. On admission, he was diagnosed to have septic pulmonary emboli and bilateral empyema. Six days after admission, the blood culture grew *Corynebacterium* species. He was treated with tazobactam sodium/pepiracillin and linezolid. Contrast-enhanced cervical CT showed empyema in the left tonsillar region with luminal occlusion, with thrombi of the neighboring left jugular vein, which led to a diagnosis of Lemierre syndrome. Sixteen days after admission, bilateral pleural decortications were performed. Thereafter, his condition gradually improved, and he was discharged forty-five days after admission.

Key words : Lemierre syndrome, *Corynebacterium* species, Septic pulmonary emboli