

FOREIGN BODY IN AIRWAYS. A CASE OF A WOMAN WITH MYASTHENIA

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Foreign body aspiration in airways occurs much less frequently in adults than in children. The following predisposes to its occurrence: senility, swallowing disorders caused by inter alia neuromuscular diseases. The symptoms that may be observed in patients with a foreign body in airways include mainly cough and wheezing. Clinical and radiological symptoms may suggest a lung cancer. Making a proper diagnosis may be really difficult and time-consuming. We report a case of a 65-year-old woman with myasthenia diagnosed and treated for years. The main cause of both her cough observed over a year and weight loss together with lung lesions observed on a chest X-ray and CT (atelectasis and inflammatory infiltrations) was a foreign body: a piece of a plant in her right upper bronchus. The upper right bronchus closed by an exophytic disorder and abnormal mucosa were found during a flexible bronchoscopy. The results of a cytological test of bronchoalveolar lavage were atypical cells which suggested a lung cancer. The foreign body in bronchus caused pneumonia. Pathogenic bacteria were cultured in a sample of the bronchoalveolar lavage. Laboratory examinations showed leucocytosis and high level of CRP. The complete removal of the foreign body was possible during a rigid bronchoscopy. Moreover, in case of this patient the X-ray symptoms of perforation of the digestive tract were clearly visible however without any crucial clinical manifestations.