

A pharyngeal foreign body resembling cervical emphysema

Hironobu Nishiori¹, Takayuki Tohma¹, Hisanori Fujita¹, and Seiichi Yamaguchi¹

¹Chiba Emergency Medical Center

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Abstract

In the laryngeal foreign body caused by plate-shaped grilled liver, computed tomography imaging showed the presence of air along the pharyngeal wall between the wall and the meat, which can be mistaken as pharyngeal emphysema.

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¹Hironobu Nishiori MD, ²Takayuki Tohma MD, ¹Hisanori Fujita MD, ¹Seiichi Yamaguchi MD

¹Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, Chiba Emergency Medical Center, Chiba, Japan

² Division of acute care surgery, Chiba Emergency Medical Center, Chiba, Japan

Corresponding author : Hironobu Nishiori

Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, Chiba Emergency Medical Center

3-32-1, Isobe, Mihama-ku, Chiba City, 261-0012, Chiba, Japan

E-mail: hironobunishiori@gmail.com

Tel: +81-1219-7242; Fax: +81-432-79-2211

Key clinical message

Pharyngeal foreign bodies sometimes show the coronal view of computed tomography images similar to cervical emphysema when they attach to the pharyngeal wall. The sagittal view of computed tomography imaging is useful to distinguish them.

Key words

pharyngeal foreign body, chest pain, pharyngeal emphysema, plate-shaped grilled meat

Abstract

In the pharyngeal foreign body caused by plate-shaped grilled liver, computed tomography images showed the presence of air along the pharyngeal wall between the wall and the foreign body, which resembles pharyngeal emphysema.

CASE

An 81-year-old woman with a history of type 2 diabetes mellitus was referred to our hospital with acute chest discomfort and pain during dinner. Cervical computed tomography (CT) images showed the presence of air along the posterior wall of the pharynx, which led to suspicion of pharyngeal emphysema. (Figure 1A, 1B) A sagittal view of CT imaging showed a plate-shaped object attached to the posterior wall of the pharynx (Figure 2). Using a laryngoscope, we found a plate-shaped grilled liver attached to the pharynx wall, and removed it with forceps (Figure 3). After the removal, her symptoms resolved without relapse.

Laryngeal foreign bodies are relatively rare in adults, but can occur in the elderly with few molars or poor coordination of the swallowing. [1] The "steak house syndrome" refers to esophageal food impaction which can be mistaken as esophageal cancer on CT imaging. [2] In Japan, it is popular to eat plate-shaped grilled meat called "Yakiniku". (Figure 4) As in this case, when the grilled liver adhered to the pharynx wall, the CT images can resemble cervical emphysema which occur secondary to retropharyngeal abscess or esophageal perforation. It is important to eat slowly and chew thoroughly avoiding laryngeal foreign body.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no pertinent conflicts of interest to report for this manuscript

ETHICS STATEMENT

None

WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE PATIENT

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient to publish this report in accordance with the journal's patient consent policy

DETAILED AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION

HN, TT: cared for the patient. HN: got the patient consent form and prepared the clinical picture and computed tomography imaging data, and wrote the report. KT, HF, and SY: read and approved the final version of the report.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

None

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