

Childhood tuberculosis presenting as an anterior chest wall abscess

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摘要

Abstract

Chest wall abscess is a rare manifestation of childhood tuberculosis. We report a case of a tuberculous chest wall abscess in a 4-year-old healthy girl who had received Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination at birth. She developed a localized anterior chest wall mass, which was initially mistaken for enchondroma on the chest radiograph. Pathologic examination of the biopsy specimen revealed chronic granulomatous inflammation and positive acid-fast staining, which confirmed the diagnosis of chest wall tuberculosis infection. She received a 12-month course of anti-tuberculous treatment and was perfectly well 1 year later. The chest wall lesion resolved without the need for surgery. In conclusion, tuberculosis should be excluded in children with undiagnosed chest wall lesions, especially in endemic areas, even if they have been vaccinated with BCG. Adequate anti-tuberculosis treatment can result in a complete recovery.

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