Lemierre’s Syndrome: A Rare Presentation

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Abstract

Lemierre’s syndrome is a rare disease also known as suppurative thrombophlebitis of the internal jugular vein often complicated with septic emboli to the lung. This syndrome typically occurs in young adults usually preceded by infection in the oropharynx. The most common causative organism is anaerobic bacterium. We report a case of 15-year-old boy who presented at day nine of fever with non-oliguric acute kidney injury and developed hemoptysis during his stay in hospital. He was managed as Leptospirosis with pulmonary hemorrhage initially and also received a course of methylprednisolone. *Porphyromonas asaccharolytica*, gram-negative anaerobes were isolated from his blood culture on admission. Computed tomography neck and thorax demonstrated internal jugular vein thrombosis and multiple bilateral cavitating lesion associated with consolidation and few of these lesion had air fluid level. Further review by the otorhinolaryngology department revealed evidence of Otitis Media. The overall clinical manifestation fits the diagnosis of Lemierre’s syndrome with septic emboli to the lungs. He clinically responded to the antimicrobial therapy and was discharge home well. We would like to highlight this rare disease and the importance of early clinical suspicion by physician once an anaerobic bacterium is detected in blood stream for prompt diagnostic investigation and antimicrobial therapy to avoid life-threatening complications.

**Keywords:** Lemierre’s syndrome, *Porphyromonas asaccharolytica*, internal jugular vein thrombosis

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