Answer to Medical Quiz: Images

Answer

• CT scan of chest shows - A rounded fungal ball in the left lung that is separated from the wall of the cavity by a crescentic halo of air.

• Diagnosis: Aspergilloma

Review

An aspergilloma is a fungus ball composed of Aspergillus hyphae, fibrin, mucus, and cellular debris found within a pulmonary cavity. Aspergillomas arise in preexisting pulmonary cavities that have become colonized with Aspergillus spp.

Patients are usually asymptomatic but may present with hemoptysis that may be severe.

Patients with classical pulmonary tuberculosis who are left with cavities of $\geq 2$ cm have an approximately 20 percent chance of subsequently developing aspergillomas.

The criteria for the diagnosis of aspergilloma are - radiologic evidence of a rounded mass in a pulmonary cavity combined with microbiologic evidence of Aspergillus as the causative agent, usually a positive culture from sputum or detectable Aspergillus IgG.

Asymptomatic cases do not require any treatment. If complicated by hemoptysis surgery, local instillation of amphotericin B or bronchial artery embolisation may be considered.

References

