

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 cavity¹. 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 ≥ 2 cm have an approximately 20 percent chance of subsequently developing aspergillomas².

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.³

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

1. Judson MA, Stevens DA. The treatment of pulmonary aspergilloma. *Curr Opin Investig Drugs* 2001; 2:1375.
2. Denning DW, Riniotis K, Dobrashian R, Sambatakou H. Chronic cavitary and fibrosing pulmonary and pleural aspergillosis: case series, proposed nomenclature change, and review. *Clin Infect Dis* 2003; 37 (Suppl 3) :S265.
3. Hope WW, Walsh TJ, Denning DW. The invasive and saprophytic syndromes due to *Aspergillus* spp. *Med Mycol* 2005; (43 Suppl 1): S207.