

Lemierre's Syndrome- Rare, But There!

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BACKGROUND

- Lemierre's syndrome is an uncommon entity characterized by thromboembolism of the internal jugular vein and septic emboli. The culprit pathogens identified are the usual oropharyngeal flora with *Fusobacterium necrophorum* being the most common bacterium (2).
- We report a case of Lemierre's syndrome in an otherwise healthy young female highlighting the forgotten existence of this rare phenomenon.

CASE PRESENTATION

- A 19-year-old female with unremarkable medical history presented with a complaint of new onset, right-sided, pleuritic chest pain for one day.
- Notably, she had presented to the hospital 2 days ago for evaluation of fevers, myalgia, and sore throat of 4 days in duration.
- On presentation this time, she was hypotensive with a blood pressure of 63/45 mm of Hg and tachycardic with a heart rate of 109 bpm. Physical examination revealed right-sided nuchal and epigastric tenderness.

INVESTIGATIONS

- Initial Laboratory workup was significant for neutrophilic leukocytosis, thrombocytopenia, and acute kidney injury.

CONCLUSION

Given the rarity of Lemierre's syndrome, the suspicion can often be missed by clinicians. Therefore, it is prudent to be aware of its re-emergence in the clinical setting, especially in patients with complications of upper respiratory tract infection (2).

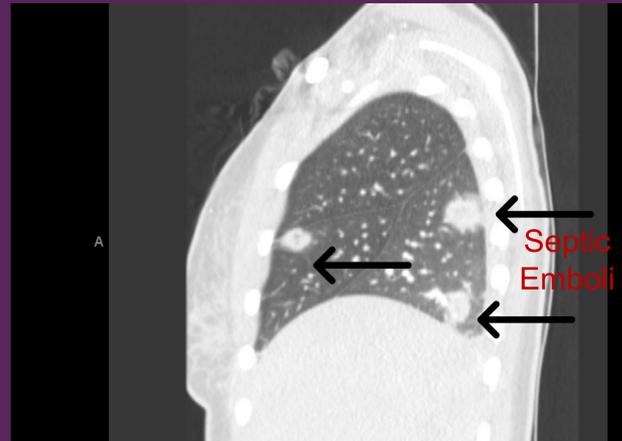


Figure 1: CT scan chest with multiple septic emboli in bilateral lung fields



Figure 2: T scan neck with contrast revealing right internal jugular vein deep branch thrombosis



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IMAGING

- A computed tomography (CT) scan of the chest revealed multiple septic emboli in bilateral lung fields [Figure 1].
- CT scan of the neck confirmed the presence of septic thrombophlebitis of right internal jugular vein and blood cultures later returned positive for *Fusobacterium necrophorum* [Figure 2].

OUTCOME AND FOLLOWUP

- She was diagnosed with Lemierre's syndrome and was started on empiric broad-spectrum antibiotics with de-escalation to ampicillin-sulbactam for a total of 6 weeks.
- Anticoagulation was deemed unnecessary after discussion with specialists.
- She had complete resolution of her symptoms in a week.

DISCUSSION

- With the emergence of antibiotics, Lemierre's syndrome, once a common disorder, became a rare disease and has also been known as the "forgotten disease"(2).
- However, with increasing antibiotic resistance, the disorder is reemerging and advocates judicious antibiotic use.
- The treatment consists of a prolonged course of intravenous beta-lactam antibiotics (2).

REFERENCES

1. [Lemierre's syndrome, reemergence of a forgotten disease: a case report - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)
2. [Lemierre's syndrome caused by *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: A case report - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

- Authors report no conflicts of interest