

# The Forgotten Disease: Lemierre Syndrome

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## Introduction

Lemierre's is defined by:

1. Initial oropharyngeal infection
2. Leads to septic thrombophlebitis of internal jugular vein
3. Complicated by metastatic infectious disease

## Case Presentation

- 18-year-old male presents with myalgias and fever
- PMHx: seasonal allergies
- Had a preceding sore throat that self-resolved
- Then with fevers up to 105F, dyspnea and chest pain
- Initial chest CT with solid and cavitary lung nodules
- Neck CT and venous dopplers showed left internal jugular DVT
- Blood cultures grew *Fusobacterium spp.*
- Treated with ceftriaxone, metronidazole for bacteremia
- Anticoagulation with apixaban
- Resolution of symptoms after 6 weeks

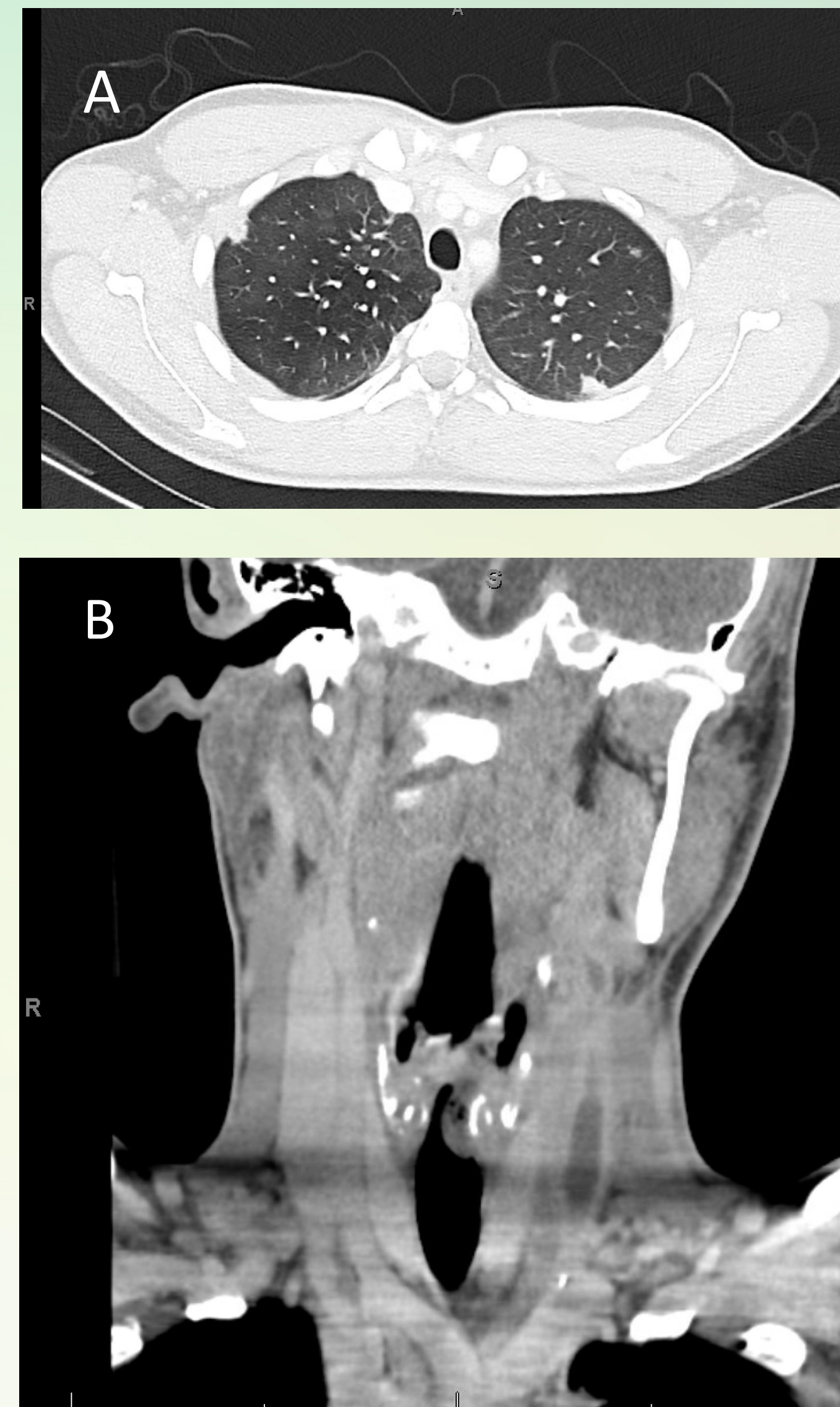


Figure 1:

A: Chest CT revealing bilateral septic emboli

B: CT neck with contrast revealing left internal jugular DVT

## Discussion

- Most commonly occurs due to oropharyngeal *Fusobacterium* species
- End-organ damage seen by abscesses, septic arthritis, septic pulmonary emboli
- Mostly seen in young males with mean age of 19
- Antibiotics using penicillins and metronidazole
- Anticoagulation is not well studied due to rarity, but typically given for 6 weeks

## Conclusion

- In patients presenting with recent oropharyngeal illness, presence of embolic phenomena should raise high suspicion for Lemierre Syndrome

## References

1. Laurencet, ME., Rosset-Zufferey, S. & Schrenzel, J. Atypical presentation of Lemierre's syndrome: case report and literature review. *BMC Infect Dis* **19**, 868 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12879-019-4538-6>
2. Eilbert W, Singla N. Lemierre's syndrome. *Int J Emerg Med*. 2013 Oct 23;6(1):40. doi: 10.1186/1865-1380-6-40.