**PULMONARY HISTOPLASMOSIS WITH CUTANEOUS MANIFESTATION IN IMMUNOCOMPETENT PATIENT**

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**INTRODUCTION:** Histoplasmosis, an endemic fungal infection, is usually asymptomatic but can progress to severe illness.  In the US, histoplasmosis is caused by Histoplasma capsulatum and is endemic in the Ohio and Mississippi River Valleys. It is transmitted via inhalation of spores found in soil contaminated with bird or bat droppings.1

**CASE SUMMARY**: A 35-year-old male initially presented with progressive left knee joint pain which later developed a draining tract. He was diagnosed as osteomyelitis and treated with daptomycin. His symptoms were not improving, and 2 new lumps appeared on the left lateral thigh and knee area. Chest CT showed solitary lung nodule. Wedge resection of left upper lung lobe was done, and histology showed necrotizing granulomas with gram stain positive for fungi, suggestive of histoplasma. He was a nonsmoker and had no pulmonary symptoms or travelling history. Histoplasma antibody and HIV were negative. He did not have immunocompromised condition or history of chronic steroid therapy.  He was treated with itraconazole for 3 months for histoplasmosis. Due to persistent skin lesion despite medication, we performed a punch biopsy which revealed granulomatous dermatitis. Itraconazole was continued for a total of 6 months and his skin lesions were resolved. Follow up Chest X ray after treatment showed clear lungs except post-surgical scarring on the left upper lung.

**DISCUSSION**: Histoplasmosis is a rare disease in New York.2 Most of the infected patients are asymptomatic and self-limited. Occasionally, it can be found as incidental lung nodule on chest imaging. This case emphasizes that histoplasmosis should be considered as a differential diagnosis of lung nodule and can be diagnosed with thorough history, antigen, histopathology, and fungal culture in all patients. Itraconazole and amphotericin are mainstays of therapy and treatment depends on severity and underlying condition.

**REFERENCE**

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