

A Case of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Presenting as Acute Pulmonary Embolism in a 34 Years Old Women

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1. Introduction

Systemic lupus erythematosus is an autoimmune disorder, which effects multiple organs especially in reproductive age group female. Various heart lung manifestations are noted with this disorder presented with asymptomatic to severe symptomatic disease. Systemic lupus associated with antiphospholipid antibody syndrome can present as acute pulmonary embolism but systemic lupus erythematosus itself a rare presentation as acute pulmonary embolism.

2. Case Report

34 years old female came with complaints of increase in severity of shortness of breath on day four of admission. She initially admitted for anaemia evaluation which was associated with shortness of breath NYHA class II. Her baseline investigations revealed hemoglobin of 5gram% no abnormality was detected in complete urine analysis and renal function tests, then we decided to evaluate her for anaemia we ordered liver function test, ultrasonography of abdomen, eventually landed with no clue. on next day her shortness of breath severity increased initial ecg with normal sinus rhythm became sinus tachycardia with Right ventricular strain her 2 - dimensional echocardiogram showed right atrium and right ventricle dilated with right ventricular dysfunction. she was shifted for non invasive CT - PA (pulmonary angiography), revealed thrombus in right pulmonary artery. she underwent thrombolysis for acute pulmonary thromboembolism with 40 mg tenecteplase, we ask her antenatal history she is having two living children and two abortions in first trimester. Then we sent coombs test and ANA (anti nuclear antibody) ELISA (Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay), both were positive for SLE. ANA Profile anti smith antibody was positive

She came for the follow up after one month, at that time she was doing better, she has been oral anticoagulation and oral steroids

3. Discussion

Although SLE rarely presents as acute pulmonary thromboembolism but still as a presenting feature especially in reproductive age group females systemic lupus erythematosus associated with APLA having high chances for thrombotic tendency, if get undetected may effect the disease course

4. Conclusion

Acute pulmonary thromboembolism can be a presenting manifestation of systemic lupus erythematosus