

Incidental Finding of Post Mediastinal Tumor and Aortic Aneurysm on Covid -19 Follow-Up

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The COVID-19 pandemic has hit large numbers of people and caused enormous mortalities. Millions of people got infected and transmitted the disease to the surrounding inhabitants at an unimaginable pace. Fever, cold, cough, bone pain, difficulty in breathing and finally pneumonia are the most common symptoms of this viral infection [1,2]. Currently, a definitive diagnosis of COVID-19 requires a laboratory real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) test in nasal and pharyngeal samples, and test results are available at least within 12-24 hours [1,3].

Patients who had flu like mild symptoms were subjected to routine imaging (chest x rays) were incidentally diagnosed for benign and malignant thoracic lesions of lung or mediastinal tumor or vascular pathology aneurism (aneurism about to rupture). Among benign Hamartomas, neurofibroma, hydatid lung and post mediastinal tumor were detected (Figure 1a and 1b). Most tumors were benign in the post-mediastinum region. Entirely post mediastinal tumors are, however, not all benign in maturity [4]. Some patients were detected with life threatening disease like aortic aneurism (Figure 1c), as aortic aneurysm is asymptomatic, most people are unaware and often the patient remains ignorant about the real cause of death due to aortic aneurysm and wrongly attribute it to "heart attack". Aortic aneurysms needs immediate surgical intervention with a man-made graft before it becomes fatal [5].

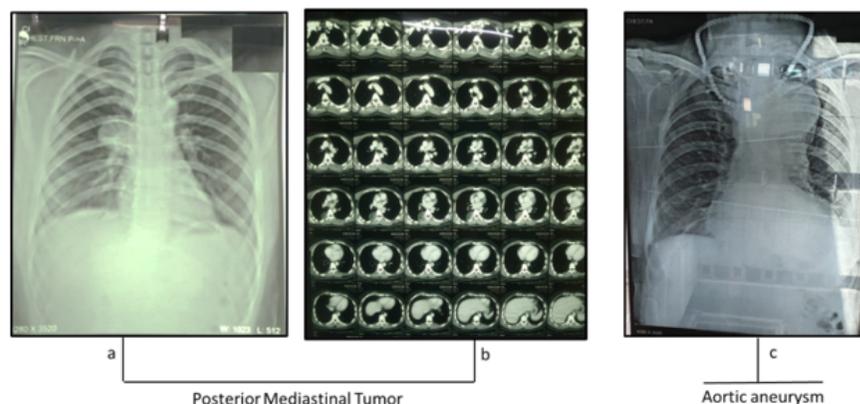


Figure 1a-1c

Some people were incidentally diagnosed with lung lesions who were mild symptomatic for covid 19 but had followed for flu like symptoms suspected COVID-19 infection, even when they have no symptoms that indicated cancer. Study on lung cancer is necessary beyond present screening criteria in asymptomatic people. This shows the benefits of body screening and also might highlight the benefits of the screening programmes especially in rural areas. Most people are diagnosed as advanced and have symptoms like coughing, hemoptysis, chest discomfort or dyspnea [6,7]. The lack of early signs, in combination with aggressive biology of the tumor, surely helps to diagnose these tumors often late. The patients who were diagnosed for malignancies didn't have any complications and never had undergone any checkup. In order to increase survival at high-risk patients in early stages, the scientific community evaluates numerous screening methods to identify such malignancies. We found that covid 19 became a blessing in disguise for diverse number of patients who were picked early for their life threatening lesions like aortic aneurysm, malignant lung lesions or uncomplicated hydatid lung.

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