

HYPERSENSITIVITY PNEUMONITIS. CLINICAL CASE REPORT

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Abstract. Hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP), or exogenous allergic alveolitis, is a complex and heterogeneous immune-mediated inflammatory and/or fibrotic disease of the lung parenchyma, small airways and interstitium that occurs in people with congenital or acquired hypersensitivity/susceptibility to certain inhaled antigens. The disease can occur in acute/inflammatory form (duration of the disease is less than 6 months) or chronic form (duration of the disease is more than 6 months). According to the latter classification, HP is divided into fibrotic and non-fibrotic forms: non-fibrotic HP is a mild form of HP compared to fibrotic HP. However, non-fibrotic HP often progresses to fibrosis, i.e. it can be recurrent. The article describes a clinical case of acute HP induced by poultry antigens in the occupational environment. The clinical case study shows that the anamnesis data, namely the identification of a direct link between the occupational environment and the onset of symptoms of dyspnoea, cough, weakness, and headache, made it possible to suspect poultry antigen-induced HP. The characteristic picture of HP observed on computed tomography images, as well as auscultation and radiological findings, made it possible to confirm the diagnosis. The results of the respiratory function assessment showed the presence of pulmonary insufficiency, and the laboratory examination data showed the presence of inflammation, immunological imbalance, acid-base (alkaline) disorders and hypoxia.

Key words: acute hypersensitivity pneumonitis, poultry allergens, spirometry, X-ray examination, computed tomography, laboratory tests, treatment.
