Crazy paving whom's fault?

Crazy paving is a pulmonar high resolution computed tomography pattern of disease where areas of ground glass attenuation with superimposed septal thickening are observed. It is frequently observed in several types of pneumonia (caused by atypical agents, in patients with chronic microaspirations due to gastrointestinal pathologies), in pulmonary tumors, in sarcoidosis and at alveolar proteinosis.

The next images shows a 61-year-old man with personal history of smoking habits and a prostatic tumor (Gleason 7 that underwent radical prostatectomy, without pharmacological therapy at he moment) that appears to the emergency department due to dyspnea, fever and cough with two days of evolution. At pulmonary auscultation there were no alterations. He performed some complementary diagnostic tests that showed elevated inflammatory parameters (PCR 382mg/L, VSG 70mm/h), respiratory insufficiency (pO2 56mmHg, pCO2 31mmHg) and a chest X-ray with bilaterally dispersed infiltrate. Important to notice that he was a negative HIV test, a negative anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, a negative antinuclear antibody and a negative angiotensin converting enzyme. He performed a thoracic computed tomography that showed a bilateral infiltrated pattern – "crazy paving like". The patient was hospitalized with the diagnosis of suspected atypical pneumonia in an immunosuppressed patient. He was medicated with azithromycin 500mg/day/5days (initially with ceftriaxone during 3 days, without steroids therapy), with improvement of clinical status and resolution of the clinical situation.

The patient performed a bronchofibroscopy without significant macroscopic changes. Bronchoalveolar lavage revealed macrophages and inflammatory cells without PAS positive material. The IgM Mycoplasma pneumonia serology was positive and IgG was negative (the PCR of Mycoplasma was not performed). After 1 month he performed another thoracic computed tomography with resolution of the bilateral infiltrated and repeated Mycoplasma pneumonia serology with IgG positive.

Keywords: Crazy-paving, atypical agent, Mycoplasma pneumonia, immunosuppressed.

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