



IMAGES IN INTENSIVE MEDICINE

Descending necrotizing mediastinitis in an immunocompetent patient

Mediastinitis necrotizante descendente en paciente sin inmunodepresión

David Roa Alonso*, Juan Pedro Martínez García-Rodrigo, Fernando Fong Ruiz

Servicio de Medicina Intensiva, Hospital Universitario Severo Ochoa, Leganés, Madrid, Spain

Available online 16 February 2024



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

This is the case of a 17-year-old girl with a past medical history of childhood meningoencephalitis without sequelae, with a 1-week history of neck pain, odynophagia, and fever of up to 39 °C. On physical examination, vital signs were stable, and she exhibited cervical pain upon movement. The lab test results showed elevated acute-phase reactants. The cervical and thoracic CT scans performed revealed the presence of a large cervical collection with abundant gas bubbles inside (asterisks) spreading toward the posterior mediastinum through the retropharyngeal space, which were findings consistent with necrotizing fasciitis and posterior mediastinitis. Surgical samples cultured *Streptococcus dysgalactiae* and *S. intermedius*. The patient responded favorably to antibiotic therapy and surgical drainage of the collection (Figs. 1, 2 and 3).

Funding

None declared.

Conflicts of interest

None declared.

DOI of original article: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.medin.2023.12.007>

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: roadavid.88@hotmail.com (D. Roa Alonso).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.medic.2024.01.009>

2173-5727/© 2024 Elsevier España, S.L.U. and SEMICYUC. All rights reserved.