Title: An extraordinary triplet and a single surgery: Lung cancer, retained bronchial foreign body and actinomycosis

Body: This unique and previously undocumented report illustrates an extremely rare co-occurrence of early staged-primary bronchial carcinoma, retained organic bronchial foreign body and actinomycosis on the right lower lobe of a patient in whom resective surgery was curative. A 67-year-old-man was hospitalized to evaluate the etiology of recurrent pneumonias. Thoracic computed tomography revealed an ill-defined mass with heterogeneous density, invading nearly total of the right lower lobe. Fiberoptic bronchoscopy showed a rigid, mobile, gray endobronchial lesion on the orifices of right lower subsegments associated with dense granulation tissue. Histopathological examination of the biopsy from the upper segment was reported as bronchogenic carcinoma. Right lower lobectomy was performed. During the removal of the lower lobe, a hard, brownish foreign body was detected on the orifice of lower lobe subsegments. The foreign body was a retained seed of “Cherry laure”.

Also in the parenchyma, focal fields of actinomycosis was detected. In cases with retained bronchial foreign body in whom chronic respiratory problems (actinomycosis as well) lead investigative approaches, a simple bronchoscopy may offer the chance of the diagnosis of an early-stage bronchogenic carcinoma. It is a debate to conclude that chronic retained foreign body is the cause of the neoplastic course.