Title: Clinical characteristics of 11 cases of pulmonary abscess in children

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Body: Rationale: Lung abscess is not common pyogenic pulmonary disease in children. Understanding regarding clinical features of lung abscess in children is important for early diagnosis and establishing proper management. Methods: We retrospectively studied medical records of 11 pediatric patients diagnosed with lung abscess in Kyung Hee University hospital and Gangdong Kyung Hee University Hospital between May 2000 and August 2011. The information regarding chief complaints, underlying diseases, laboratory results, radiologic findings and treatments were collected and analyzed. Results: Median age was 7.8 yr (range 1-16 yrs) and male/female ratio was 7/4. Most common chief complaints were fever, coughing and chest pain. Underlying diseases relating dental or cardiopulmonary were found in 7 patients whose duration of hospitalization was longer than the patients without underlying disease (36.7 vs 17.5 days). Associate pulmonary conditions (atelectasis, pneumonia or pleurisy) on chest X ray were found in 10 patients. Invasive interventions were done in 8 patients that include 1 patient who needed thoracostomy and urokinase instillation. Three patients who don’t have underlying diseases were treated successfully with antibiotics alone. The organisms found were S. aureus (n=2), S. pneumonia (n=2), M. pneumoniae (n=2), coronavirus (n=1). Conclusion: We observed that pediatric pulmonary abscess was more common in the patients with underlying conditions whose outcome was more favorable when treated with antibiotics and invasive modality.