

CORRESPONDENCE

Open Access



When to anatomically excise a benign lung tumor-correspondence regarding the article: “large mesenchymal cystic and chondroid pulmonary hamartoma mimicking lung cancer: case report”

Fani Tsolaki¹, Georgios I. Tagarakis^{2*} and Ioannis Tagarakis¹

Abstract

The decision of whether to perform a large anatomic resection for a lung mass that is not definitely malignant comes often forward in the everyday practice of the thoracic surgeon. The general characteristics of the tumor as well as of the patient and the instinct and experience of the surgeon are the ones that dictate the final choice. Such a decision was made in the case of a large pulmonary hamartoma where a right middle lobectomy was performed with the postoperative course justifying the surgeons' choice.

Keywords Lung tumor, Benign, Anatomic resection

Dear Editor,

We read with interest the paper by Ahn et al. [1], published recently in your esteemed journal. The question of whether to perform a large anatomic resection or not in case of a sizeable lung tumor without a definite diagnosis of malignancy often comes forward in the everyday practice of a thoracic surgeon, sometimes even during the surgical procedure, when the pathologist cannot provide a clear answer based on the rapid biopsy specimen. Apart from the cases of doubt in regard to malignancy, lung excision for benign lesions can occur in various cases,

such as tubercular lesions, complicated lung abscesses, symptomatic cavitory lesions caused by aspergillus, hydatid cysts or pulmonary sequestrations. In the described case, absence of smoking history and low SUV uptake in the PET-CT scan examination spoke in favor of a benign lesion, however the size of the mass and the age of the patient were signs for a possible malignancy. In such cases of doubt, the instinct and experience of the surgeon and the proper preoperative discussion and informed consent with the patient and relatives allowing multiple treatment options can provide the solution. The extent of the excision will be decided based on the experience of the surgeon (as sublobar anatomic excisions may be more technically demanding than a lobectomy) and the actual contribution of the affected lobe to the total respiratory function of the patient which may be minimal when the pathological lesion has inflicted a major part of the lobe.

*Correspondence:

Georgios I. Tagarakis
gtagarakis@gmail.com

¹Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University Campus,
Thessaloniki 54124, Greece

²Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki, AHEPA University Hospital, Thessaloniki 54636, Greece



© The Author(s) 2024. **Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated in a credit line to the data.

In the commented case, Ahn et al. correctly explained that the bizarre appearance of the tumor with its size and cystic nature that rendered it prone to rupture and related complications (e.g. dissemination, pneumothorax), led them to the option of the right middle lobectomy, a decision with which we agree. The optimal postoperative course of the patient justified their choice.

Author contributions

All authors conceived the idea of the manuscript. FT wrote the paper. GT checked the paper and the final corrections and is the corresponding author. IT checked the paper, and the final corrections.

Funding

Not applicable.

Data availability

Not applicable.

Declarations**Ethical approval**

Not applicable-Ethical approval is not necessary for this kind of manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Received: 15 October 2023 / Accepted: 30 January 2024

Published online: 09 February 2024

References

1. Seha Ahn H, Lee JK, Kang. In Sub Kim, Youngkyu Moon, Jung Suk Choi, Si Young Choi. Large mesenchymal cystic and chondroid pulmonary hamartoma mimicking lung cancer: Case report. *J Cardiothorac Surg.* 2023;18(1):278.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.