

Pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis presenting with progressive dyspnoea

A 74-year-old man presented to the authors' clinic complaining of progressive dyspnoea for the last 5 years. Computed tomography scans demonstrated pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis (Figure 1a-c).

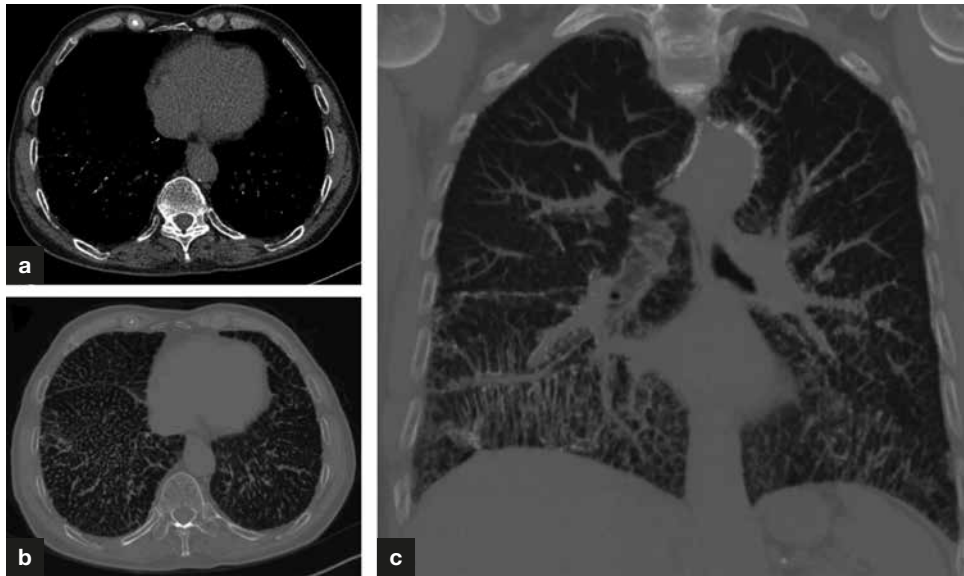


Figure 1. Axial computed tomography scans in (a) mediastinal and (b) parenchymal windows show uniform microcalcifications compatible with alveolar microlithiasis. c. Coronal computed tomography scan in parenchymal window shows microcalcifications and vascular congestions more prominently seen in the bilateral lower zones.

Pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis is a rare condition, which is mostly detected incidentally. It is an autosomal recessive lung disease characterised by the deposition of innumerable microliths. Patients are asymptomatic until alveolar gas exchange deteriorates, and so is usually diagnosed when the patient is an adult. Circumferential pleural calcification, sandstorm lung sign, crazy paving pattern and ground-glass opacities are typical computed tomography findings of pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis (Cuesta Lujano et al, 2018; Goel et al, 2020). There is no definitive medical treatment for pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis; bilateral lung transplant is the only definitive treatment for patients with advanced disease.

Author details

¹Department of Radiology, Suleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey

²Department of Thoracic Surgery, Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey

³Department of Anesthesiology, Clinical Research Office, Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey

⁴Department of Radiology, Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey

References

- Cuesta Lujano L, Gutiérrez Domingo Á, Fernández Ollero L. Alveolar microlithiasis and its distinctive clinical and radiological disassociation. *Arch Bronconeumol.* 2018;54(9):493–494. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.arbres.2017.08.016>
- Goel MK, Kumar A, Maitra G. First report of pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis diagnosed by cryobiopsy. *Lung India.* 2020;37(2):183–185. https://doi.org/10.4103/lungindia.lungindia_497_19

Veysel Ayyildiz¹

Yener Aydin^{2,3}

Hayri Ogul^{3,4}

Author details can be found at the end of this article

Correspondence to:

Hayri Ogul;
drhogul@gmail.com

How to cite this article:

Ayyildiz V, Aydin Y, Ogul H. Pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis presenting with progressive dyspnoea. *Br J Hosp Med.* 2020. <https://doi.org/10.12968/hmed.2020.0245>