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Radiological findings in allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA)

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Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA) is an immunological lung disorder occurring due to hypersensitivity reactions against the fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Diagnosis of ABPA is based upon a set of clinical, immunological and radiological criteria. Imaging plays an important role in diagnosis of ABPA. However, at times, diagnosis of ABPA can be challenging, despite well-established criteria. Radiologist should be familiar with imaging findings and various diagnostic criteria of ABPA, so as to give a more confident diagnosis. Role of imaging in ABPA is not only limited to diagnosis of central bronchiectasis. In recent years, imaging has been used for classification and prognostication of the disease. Certain imaging features like high attenuation mucus (HAM) are helpful in determining the immunological severity and disease relapse. ABPA has non-specific features on chest radiography. High resolution computed tomography (HRCT) is the imaging modality of choice for diagnosis of bronchiectasis in ABPA. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) appears to have a promising role in evaluation of ABPA. Based upon presence of central bronchiectasis (CB) and HAM, ABPA can be classified based as ABPA-S (mild), ABPA-CB (moderate), and ABPA-CB-HAM (severe). This classification not only reflects immunological severity but also predicts the risk of recurrent relapses. In recent years, the role of radiology in ABPA has evolved. Radiology plays an important role not only in diagnosis but also in the classification and prognostication of the disease

Biography

Mandeep K Garg is a board certified Radiologist and is currently working as an Additional Professor at Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India. His main area of interest is thoracic radiology. He is a Member of International working group on ABPA complicating asthma and also a Member of National Faculty who formulated National guidelines for diagnosis and management of Community and Hospital acquired pneumonia (CAP and HAP), COPD and Bronchial Asthma in adults in India. He is actively involved in research and teaching of postgraduate students in radiology and pulmonary medicine. He has published more than 40 papers in journals of repute apart from contributing many chapters in books

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