

Galaxy Sign: A Sign Among Others of Pulmonary Sarcoidosis

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Abstract

Galaxy sign is a metaphor of medical imaging corresponding to an irregularly margined pulmonary nodule formed by the confluence of several small nodules that are less concentrated in the periphery. It was first described in sarcoidosis, but it can also be seen in tuberculosis, silicosis, progressive massive fibrosis without forgetting malignant causes.

Keywords: Galaxy sign, sarcoidosis, CT scan

Text

The galaxy sign correspond to an irregularly margined pulmonary nodule formed by the confluence of several small nodules that are less concentrated in the periphery resulting in irregular borders and multiple small satellite nodules [1,2]. This appearance resembles that of a galaxy hence the name. The average size of the nodules is 1 to 2 cm, but can be larger [2](Figure 1).

The galaxy sign was first described by Nakatsu et al. in 16 of 59 patients (27%) with histologically confirmed sarcoidosis in 2002 [1,3] However, pulmonary sarcoidosis is well known for diverse radiological manifestations.

Currently, the galaxy sign is considered less specific as a unique element. The galaxy sign may also be seen in active tuberculosis [1-3] It can also be confused radio logically with lung cancer and progressive massive fibrosis [1-3].

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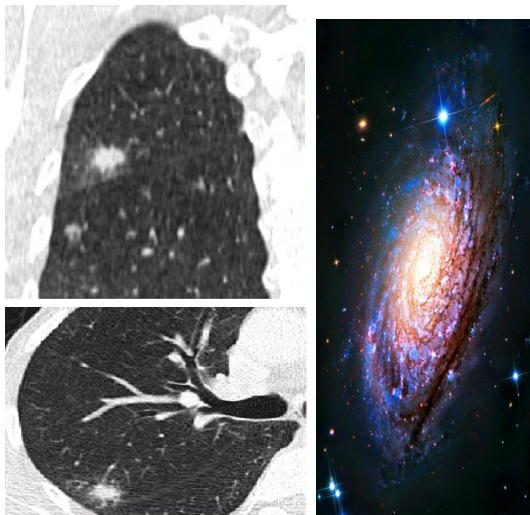


Figure 1: Thoracic computed tomography (A, B) show a central nodule with other marginalized peripheral smaller nodules (arrows), consistent with the galaxy sign and resembling to a galaxy (C).

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