

Transbronchial cryo-biopsy in pulmonary Langerhans cell histiocytosis: a case report

Yanling He, Yi Xiao, Zhidong Li, Yaji Yang

Background: Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH) is a rare systemic disorder characterized by the accumulation of CD1a+/Langerin+ LCH cells and wide-ranging organ involvement. The atypical LCH is difficult to confirm. There are relatively little data regarding the utility of transbronchial cryo-biopsy (TBCB) for this disorder.

Content: Authors report a case of a 46-year old man with pulmonary Langerhans' cell histiocytosis who presented with chronic cough and chest distress. Imaging of the chest showed characteristic small nodules and thin-walled cysts. This PLCH case hasn't peripheral lymph node involvement. Diagnosis is hard to confirm without transbronchial cryo-biopsy (TBCB). No major complications occurred during TBCB. We carried out a diagnostic work-up which included laboratory and radiographic analysis, bronchoscopy.

Conclusion: TBCB is a safe and effective minimally invasive modality for the diagnosis of PLCH and should be the initial method of obtaining diagnostic specimens.