Radiographic Features of a Case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome with Fatal Outcome

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Abstract

Introduction: Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a new form of atypical pneumonia caused by a coronavirus. We present the clinical course and chest radiographic findings of a case of SARS with fatal outcome. Clinical Picture: A 39-year-old Chinese male presented with fever, sore throat and non-productive cough. During his illness, serial chest radiographs showed increasingly severe air-space shadowing in both lungs. Treatment and Outcome: The patient was treated with supplemental oxygen, levofloxacin, oseltamivir, ribavirin and methylprednisolone. As his condition worsened, he required ventilatory and inotropic support. He later developed a myocardial infarct and coagulopathy, and succumbed to his illness. Conclusion: The reported case mortality of SARS is about 9% worldwide. In Singapore, the mortality is 15.5%. Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) is believed to be a contributory factor to our patient’s demise. We report this case to show the radiographic changes of ARDS in a patient with SARS.


Key words: Acute respiratory distress syndrome, Air-space shadowing, Atypical pneumonia, Coronavirus, Thoracic radiography

Case Report