

Abstract

Cutaneous tuberculosis is a rare presentation of extrapulmonary tuberculosis. The diagnosis of cutaneous tuberculosis is often missed or delayed due to its non specific clinical presentation and lack of availability of diagnostic tests in resource poor setting. It is important to have a high index of suspicion specially in communities with high disease burden of tuberculosis.

Case Presentation

A 76 year old male who was previously healthy presented with a lump in right leg below the elbow for 2 months duration. It was a small lump over the right shin and gradually increased in size over 2 months. It was painless initially, but gradually became painful with overlying skin erythema and ulceration with pus discharge. He denied any history of trauma, handling soil or exposure to animals. He denied history of fever, constitutional symptoms or chronic cough. He denies past or contact history of tuberculosis. He denies high risk sexual behaviour, blood transfusion or intravenous drug use. There is no travel history to leishmaniasis endemic regions.

Clinical findings

On examination, he was emaciated with a 3 cm lump with purulent discharge over the right shin with overlying erythema and swelling. There was no inguinal lymphadenopathy or anaesthetic hypopigmented patches or palpable thickened nerves. Examination of the respiratory system revealed a respiratory rate of 26 per minute, normal chest wall movements and vesicular breathing with no added sounds. Abdominal