

Abstract

Introduction Chronic cough is a common problem in day-to-day clinical practice. Diffuse parenchymal lung diseases are an uncommon yet important spectrum of disorders that present with chronic cough. It is important to establish the possible provocative factor for the lung disease since the management is primarily the avoidance of exposure.

Case presentation A 50-year-old female who presented with progressive non-productive cough for six months, and exertional dyspnea for one month, who had diffuse crackles across all lung fields, type I respiratory failure, restrictive lung functions, diffuse ground glass shadows and centrilobular nodules on HRCT chest was diagnosed with Subacute hypersensitivity pneumonitis. Detailed inquiry revealed the likely provocative factor, a hen pen in the neighbourhood. Avoidance of exposure along with systemic steroids lead to rapid symptom resolution and clinical improvement.

Conclusion Subacute hypersensitivity pneumonitis follows exposure to organic chemicals. Detailed inquiry is required, since the provocative factor might not have been recognized by the patient.