

Abstract

ANCA associated vasculitis (AAV) is a subtype of small-medium vessel vasculitis causing necrotizing inflammation, with absent or minimal immune deposition and testing positive for anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA). AAV is known to be associated with other autoimmune disorders but knowledge of true prevalence is lacking. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory disease of joints, characterized by bilateral symmetrical small joint involvement of hands and feet. It causes vasculitis associated with systemic disease, principally in the later stages. Association between seropositive rheumatoid arthritis and AAV is a rarely documented phenomena with only several cases documented in the world.

We report the rare case of a middle aged, male with sero-positive rheumatoid arthritis, presenting with diffuse alveolar hemorrhages and glomerulonephritis, ultimately diagnosed to have pauci-immune necrotizing vasculitis with MPO-ANCA positivity. Early recognition and commencement of specific management will prevent fatal complications.