Pleural empyema caused by trichomonas. Case report

Ramirez, A.; Palma, A.; Aviles, E.; Villarroel, L.

Abstract

Pleural empyema formation is one of the potential complications of lower respiratory tract infections and it is characterized by bacterial organisms seen on gram stain or the aspiration of pus on thoracentesis. Very rarely empyema can be caused by trichomonas species, of which Trichomonas Tenax appears to be the most common cause. In this article we report the case of a 51-year-old man who developed a pleural empyema caused by trichomonas, and review the available literature of this rare infection of unknown incidence and uncertain pathogenetic significance. Our patient was treated with metronidazole, however complete cure was not achieved and pulmonary decortication was necessary for the successful outcome. As far as we know, this is the first case of pleural empyema caused by trichomonas reported in Chile.

Keywords Pleural empyema, Empyema, Trichomonas, TENAX, Surgery