“Dermatofibrosarcoma Metastasis Replacing Entire Left Lung”

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Clinical image description

A 42-year-old male was transferred to the intensive care unit from a peripheral ER, after he was intubated emergently for respiratory distress, at night. History was limited on arrival. Initial CXR showed complete opacification of left hemithorax with mediastinal shift (Figure 1). CT chest showed complete filling of left hemithorax by a heterogeneous mass (Figure 2, notice density similar to liver tissue). Interpretation of these radiological findings was puzzling in the absence of history and medical records. Next morning, we were able to obtain patient’s medical records. Patient was found to have dermatofibrosarcoma which had metastasized to lungs few years ago. Metastatic lesion had replaced the entire left lung (as seen on PET scan, Figure 3). Interestingly, the lung metastasis was similar in size when compared to previous imaging without any evidence of progression. Family endorsed that the patient was fairly asymptomatic from respiratory standpoint at home prior to this hospitalization. Later, patient developed septic shock secondary to Fournier’s gangrene and subsequently passed away despite aggressive medical efforts.
