Images in Otolarinology

A Nasal Septal Abscess

Un absceso del tabique nasal

Yuka Onuki, Aiko Shiraishi, Kenta Watanabe

Departamento de Otolaringología y Cirugía de Cabeza y Cuello, Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Medical Center, Tokio, Japan

We herein report the case of a rare condition, a spontaneous nasal septal abscess, which was succeeded in treatment without complications. A 71-year-old female was referred to our clinic complaining of rhinalgia and severe nasal obstruction that had persisted for a week. She denied a history of either facial trauma or nasal surgery and had not been treated for immunosuppressive disease. No caries and gingivitis were observed. The patient’s anterior portion of the nasal septum was extremely swollen bilaterally, narrowing nasal airflow passage. Enhanced computed tomography clearly revealed an abscess formation in the cartilaginous portion of the nasal septum (Fig. 1, coronal image; Fig. 2, axial image; Fig. 3, sagittal image). Incisions to drain purulence were performed immediately from the bilateral nasal cavity and the patient was treated with cephalosporin intravenously for five days, followed by oral administration for a week. Bacterial cultivation of the abscess material showed that Streptococcus anginosus was present. The condition of septal swelling was ameliorated and cured without saddle-nose deformity. Then the patient could breathe through her nose again. This case demonstrates that nasal septal abscess can be encountered even in patients without a history of facial trauma or definitive infection source.

* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: tinayukatina@yahoo.co.jp (Y. Onuki).

2173-5735/ - see front matter © 2012 Elsevier España, S.L. All rights reserved.
A Nasal Septal Abscess

Figure 2

Figure 3