

An Infection Potential for Severe Complications: Deep Neck Infection

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Abstract

Background: Deep neck infections and cervical necrotizing fasciitis are infections with high complication rates and can cause significant morbidity and mortality. Mediastinitis, which can develop as a complication of these infections, can be fatal as it affects many vital organs in the mediastinum.

Case Report: In this report, we present a 67-year-old male patient who was admitted to the emergency department with complaints of sensation of sticking in the throat, dysphagia and shortness of breath. The patient was tachypneic and tachycardic with

CRP value in laboratory findings and tomography results compatible with deep neck infection and mediastinitis. Airway safety was ensured and antibiotic treatment was started and the patient was hospitalized in the intensive care unit for surgical debridement.

Conclusion: In patients presenting with suspected head and neck infection, physical examination should be performed carefully and a history of immunosuppressive disease should be thoroughly investigated. It is important that the airway of these patients is protected and their treatment is provided

rapidly. Due to the complexity of the anatomy of the head and neck, high suspicion by the examining physician may prevent delay in the treatment of these patients. Multidisciplinary work in terms of airway protection, antibiotic therapy and surgical debridement may be life-saving.

Keywords: Cervical necrotizing fasciitis, deep neck infection, mediastinitis