

Surgical Management of Complicated Severe Descending Necrotizing Mediastinitis using Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (VATS): A Case Series

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Background: Descending Necrotizing Mediastinitis (DNM) known as severe life threatening disease that results from complicated oropharyngeal and odontogenic infections.¹ Even though its rare, once the diagnose has been established, early intervention with surgical drainage is mandatory in order to minimize morbidity and mortality.²

Purpose and Objectives: This case series focused on two patients diagnosed with descending necrotizing mediastinitis from available clinical data, who underwent surgical drainage and decortication using Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (VATS).

Method: We report two cases of female adolescent (19 years old and 14 years old) patients who had been consulted to our departement with severe mediastinitis that complicated with thoracic empyema. Both of them had history of neglected odontogenic infections before the symptoms occurs. We perform surgical drainage and decortication using VATS. After surgery, both of patient transferred to intensive care unit for post operative care and monitoring.

Result: Even though the patients are critically ill and the post operative care are quite challenging (Patient 2 underwent surgical tracheostomy in post operative day 8), both of patients are survived and discharged after several weeks (discharged in 39 days after surgery) with adequate drainage and antibiotic therapy.

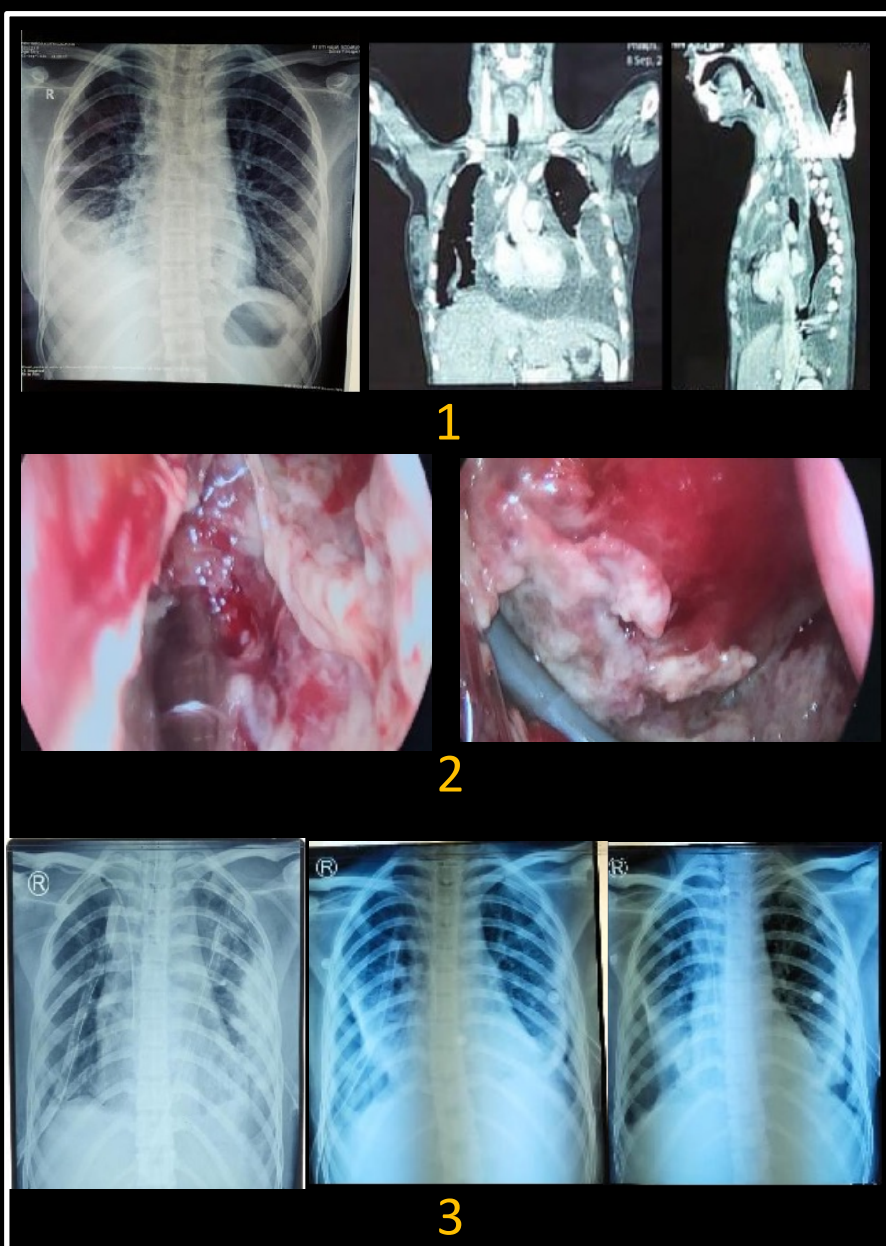


Fig 1. Patient 1

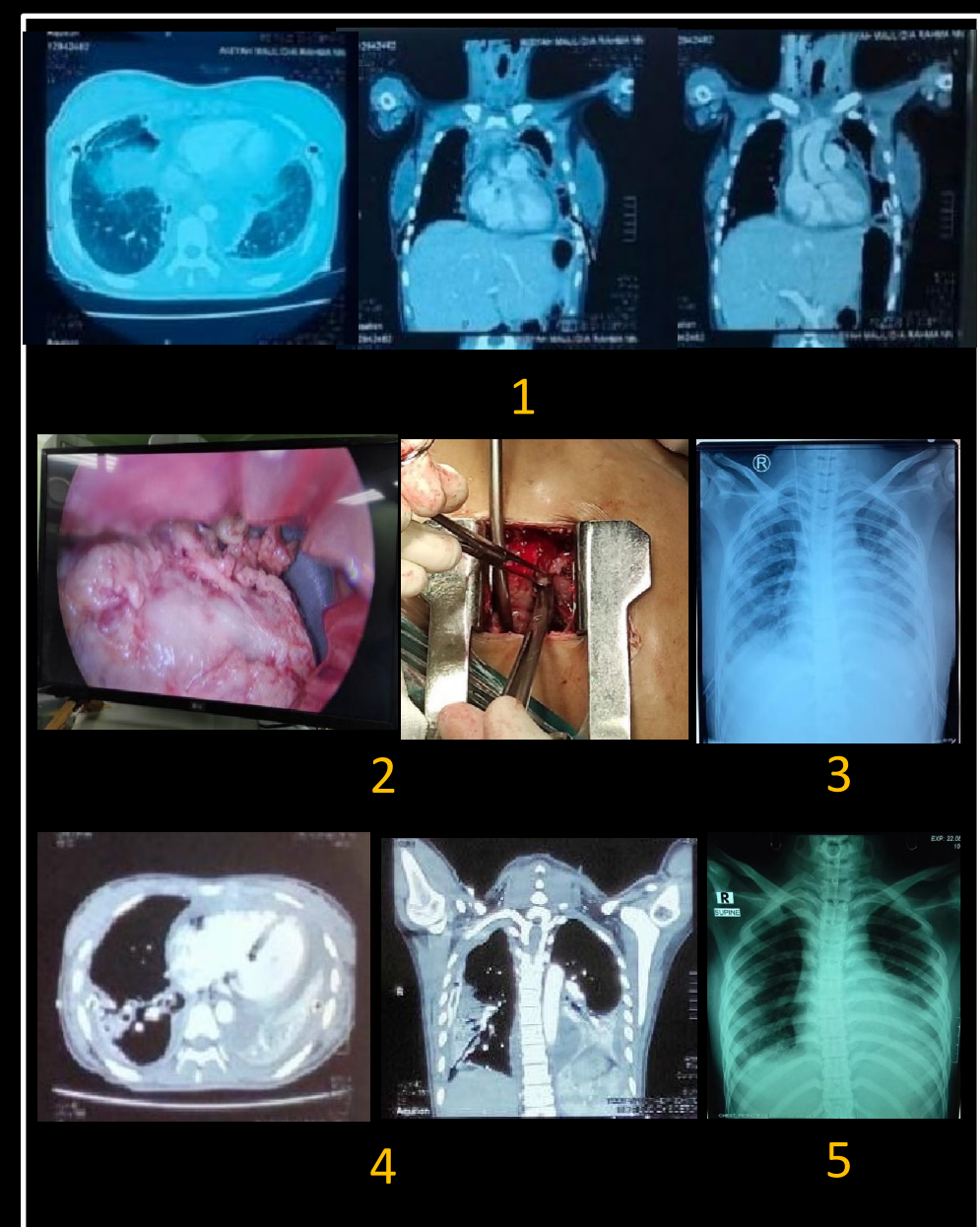


Fig 2. Patient 2

Conclusion: Descending Necrotizing Mediastinitis is life theratening complications with high morbidity and mortality. Once diagnosed, quick intervention including surgical drainage should be performed. The use of VATS can help to manage this condition and reduce morbidity and mortality on critically ill patient

References:

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