Achalasia mimicking lung abscess

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

A 21-year-old woman was hospitalized to our institution on account of fever and chest tightness for a day. Prior to this admission, she was discharged from other hospital 3 weeks ago with a diagnosis of pneumonia. The patient sustained intermittent chest pain after meals that were relieved by vigorous vomiting, along with a weight loss of 5 kg in the past 6 months. Patient came for medical advice at our chest clinic, where chest radiograph showed a cyst with air-fluid level below the carina (Fig. 1 arrow). After hospitalization, she underwent a chest computerized tomography, in which a dilated esophagus with food retention was detected (Fig. 2 arrow). In addition, a barium swallow study demonstrated characteristics of achalasia, including the bird's beak deformity and a dilated esophagus (Fig. 3). Achalasia was confirmed by an esophageal manometric study.

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Conflict of interest

None declared.

Key words: Lung abscess, achalasia.