

LUNG LESIONS IN THE COURSE OF FEVER OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

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Fever of unknown origin (FUO) remains one of the most difficult diagnostic challenges. The cause of FUO can be various diseases located in different organs. The aim of the study was to determine the prevalence and assessment of lesions in the lungs in the course of FUO. 161 patients with FUO participated in the prospective study, conducted at the Hospital Czerniakowski in Warsaw. We conducted a detailed comprehensive history and physical examination and performed a wide spectrum of tests. The most common were infections (37%), autoimmune conditions (27%) and neoplasm (16%). Lung lesions were found in 32% of patients. In this group 33% were infections, 29% autoimmune diseases and 4% neoplasm. Among patients with respiratory infection were cases of tuberculosis, atypical pneumonia, lung abscess and bronchiectases. Autoimmune pulmonary lesions were observed in the course of vasculitis and systemic lupus. The cause of FUO was also pulmonary embolism, sarcoidosis and pulmonary fibrosis. The respiratory lesions are common cause of FUO; they are observed in 1/3 of patients with this diagnosis. Most FUO with pulmonary lesions are recognized in the course of infections and autoimmune diseases. Important part of diagnosing FUO is particular evaluation of the respiratory system.