Rhinoscleroma in an Urban Non-Endemic Setting

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ABSTRACT

To increase awareness and understanding of the clinical presentation, diagnosis and treatment options of respiratory rhinoscleroma among otolaryngologists in non-endemic settings, we present a retrospective chart review of rhinoscleroma cases at Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston, Texas. We report 2 cases of nasal and 1 case of laryngeal rhinoscleroma in an urban non-endemic setting at Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston, Texas. Geographically, all patients were originally from endemic areas - El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico. All male patients in the spring of 2010. Two patients were male and the third patient was male. Their ages at presentation ranged from 30 to 56 years old. They were treated medically and/or surgically with an established follow up of more than 12 months.

CONCLUSIONS

Rhinoscleroma is a chronic granulomatous disease caused by a coccobacillus, Klebsiella rhinoscleromatis, affecting the respiratory tract and primarily nasal cavity. It is endemic to areas of Europe, Central and South America, Africa and Middle East but increasing travel and immigration lead to an increasing incidence in non-endemic areas. Lack of awareness when disease presents in developed countries often leads to delay in diagnosis and can cause nasal deformities, airway obstruction and symptoms mimicking prolonged sinusitis.

SELECTED REFERENCES