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CASE REPORT

Plastic bronchitis: an unusual bronchoscopic challenge associated with congenital heart disease repair

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Abstract

Plastic bronchitis is a rare disorder characterized by the formation of branching mucoid bronchial casts. Several pathophysiologic conditions are associated with development of these intrabronchial casts, including congenital heart defects. The management of plastic bronchitis presents an unusual and interesting bronchoscopic challenge. We describe a patient who underwent a Fontan procedure for correction of a congenital heart defect and subsequently developed respiratory distress secondary to plastic bronchitis on two occasions. In both cases, endoscopic intervention was required to remove these casts. A review of the literature, including the proposed etiologies, diagnosis, and current medical and surgical management, is also undertaken.



Keywords

Plastic bronchitis; Bronchial casts; Fontan procedure

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