Abstract

Congenital lobar emphysema is an unfrequent congenital malformation which may be the cause of respiratory insufficiency in the smaller suckling child. It is produced by the overexpansion of one lung lobe with compression of the normal lung parenchyma and displacement of the mediastinum. Our purpose is to present 4 cases of this illness which were surgically treated by our team in the last years, three males and one female. Three of them were less than 6 months old at the moment of surgery. All of them presented unspecific respiratory symptoms and prolonged pre-surgery hospitalization. Thorax X-ray in the four cases was characterized by an image of hyperinsufflation of the compromised lung lobe and a contralateral displacement of the mediastinum. In two cases, the study was complemented by Computed Axial Tomography and in two of them by perfusion scintigram. In three patients the compromised lobe was the upper left one and in one patient the upper right one. Lobectomy of the compromised lobe was performed on all cases and the morbidity nor mortality in the series, which an excellent post surgery evolution. All patients are asymptomatic in the long term controls.

Keywords

Congenital lobar emphysema