

HOT TUB LUNG

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Abstract

This review deals with current approaches to etiology, pathogenesis, clinical features and diagnostics of hot tub lung. The aim of the report is to extend the knowledge of practicing physicians in the area of interstitial lung diseases considering possible role of environmental exposures. Hot tub lung is a granulomatous lung disease, resulted in hyperreactive response of immune system to airborne exposure with nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM). ATS diagnostic criteria for hot tub lung include the sub-acute onset of respiratory symptoms associated with hot tub exposure, positive mycobacterial cultures from respiratory and water samples, and characteristic radiographic findings. Treatment of this condition rests on avoidance of exposure with bacterial antigens and a trial of corticosteroid therapy. Better understanding of this pathology would help physician with sometimes difficult differential diagnosis of interstitial lung diseases.

Key words: hot tub lung, nontuberculous mycobacteria, hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

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