A Case of Pulmonary and Pleural Involvement due to Sparganum

A 57-year-old man was admitted with pleuritic pain lasting for 2 weeks. He had eaten both wine-soaked snakes and the flesh of wild boar, and drunken unboiled stream water for past 3 years. At admission, chest x-ray and CT showed 4×3 cm sized ill defined mass in left lower lung and ipsilateral pleural effusion (figure 1). Serum leukocytosis (11,600/mm³) with eosinophilia (15%) was found. Analysis of pleural effusion was an exudative effusion with eosinophilia (71%). After 10 days of admission, a new pneumonic infiltration and effusion appeared at right lung zone and previous lesion disappeared on chest radiography (figure 2). Serum ELISA to detect parasite infection was performed and revealed strong positive reaction to sparganosis. For the confirmatory diagnosis and treatment, surgical excision was performed at right lower lobe (figure 3). Sparganum larva was identified and removed. Histological examination showed that there was fragmented adult worm with characteristic calcareous corpuscle with eosinophilic infiltration and granuloma (figure 4). After excision, serum eosinophil count was normalized and follow-up chest x-ray in outpatient clinic showed no more pleural effusion and pulmonary infiltration.