



Abstract: DPAS møde 2021

Forskningstræningsprojekt, ja/nej: Nej

Abstract titel: Fatal Pulmonary Fibrosis – a Post-COVID-19 Autopsy Case

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There is growing evidence of histopathological changes in autopsied individuals infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), however, data on histopathological changes in autopsied patients with eradicated COVID-19 are limited. We performed an autopsy on a Caucasian female in her 80s, who died due to severe, bilateral interstitial pulmonary fibrosis after eliminated SARS-CoV-2 infection. In addition, CT scans from two months before infection and from six days prior to death were compared.

Comparison of the CT scans showed bilateral development of widespread interstitial fibrosis in previously healthy lungs. Microscopic examination showed different stages of lung injury ranging from focal areas with diffuse alveolar damage to areas with organising fibrotic stages with honeycomb-like remodelling and bronchial metaplasia.

We here report a unique autopsy case with development of widespread, interstitial pulmonary fibrosis in a female in her 80s with previous COVID-19 and no prior history of pulmonary illnesses.

