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Bird-On-Tree Appearance

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Opinion

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Abstract

Birds can cause or mediate several pulmonary diseases including psittacosis and hypersensitivity pneumonitis called bird breeder's lung. "Bud-in-tree" appearance is 2 to 4 mm centrilobular nodules or branching linear structures with more than one contiguous branching site and usually suggests bronchiolitis including diffuse panbronchiolitis and pulmonary infectious diseases such as mycobacterium infections. We here present a novel bird-related finding "bird-on-tree" appearance. In addition, birds can cause a nodule with spiculation called "nestoma". These findings are usually observed only in winter.

Keywords: Bird-on-tree; Bud-in-tree; Bird-in-tree; Nestoma; Adenocarcinoma

Main text

Birds can cause or mediate several pulmonary diseases including cryptococcosis, psittacosis, and hypersensitivity pneumonitis called bird breeder's (fancier's) lung [1]. "Bud-in-tree" appearance was first reported as a representative finding of pulmonary tuberculosis [2]. This finding is 2 to 4 mm centrilobular nodules or branching linear structures with more than one contiguous branching site and usually suggests bronchiolitis including diffuse panbronchiolitis and pulmonary infectious diseases such as mycobacterium infections although bronchiolar involvement of some neoplasms and aspiration of irritant substances can also show this pattern [2-5]. We here present a bird-related finding "bird-on-tree" appearance for the first time (Figure 1). This is a photograph of some birds perching on a tree, which resemble to bud-in-tree appearance on CT. This appearance sometimes disappears very quickly, for example, at time when a person approaches. In addition, birds can cause a nodule with speculation like an adenocarcinoma (Figure 2). This "NESToma" may be benign rather than a subtype of adenocarcinoma. These findings are usually observed only in winter. No treatment is necessary.

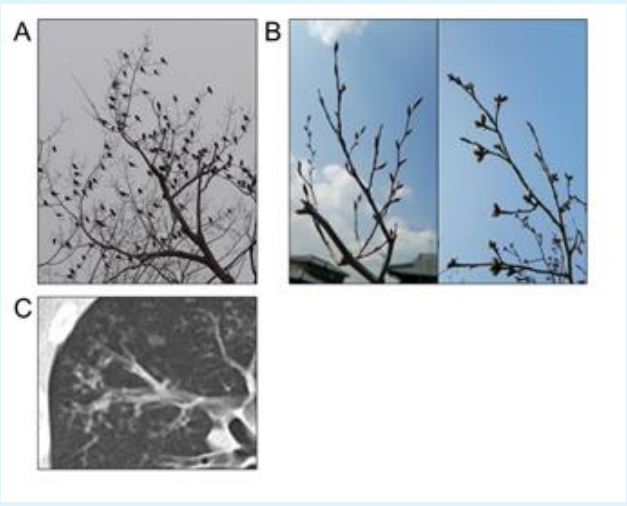

Figure 1: (A) “Bird-on-tree”. (B) The bud of the tree. (C) “Bud-in-tree” appearance.

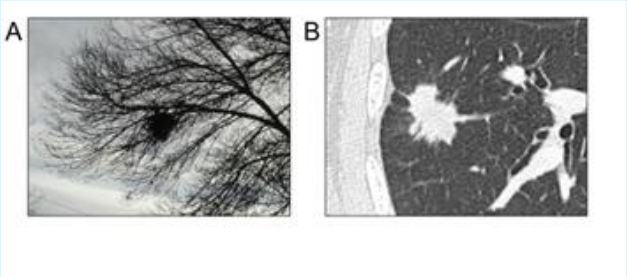

Figure 2: (A) A “NESToma”. (B) An adenocarcinoma.

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