A Thirty – Year Old Man with Fever, Cough and Progressive Dyspnea

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WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?
A 30-year-old Iranian man was admitted to our hospital due to productive cough, chest pain, sweating and 14 Kg weight loss since three months ago. He developed fever and progressive dyspnea seven days ago.

The patient was a painter, 16 pack/year smoker, oral opium addict, with a history of incarceration. But he denied intravenous drug abuse. He was single and had not any sexual contact. He had a history of pulmonary tuberculosis seven years ago with complete cure after treatment for nine months.

In physical examination, he was cachectic with severe respiratory distress, unable to walk. The vital signs were: oral temperature: 39°C; pulse rate: 108 / min; respiratory rate: 28/min and blood pressure: 120/80 mmHg. Oxygen saturation rate was 73% with ambient air. Heart sounds were normal. Fine crackles were heard in both lungs. Peripheral cyanosis was present and a tattoo was seen on his right hand. There was no further abnormal clinical finding.

The results of the laboratory tests were: total leukocyte count: 6900 cell /µl with 82% neutrophils, 6% band cells and 12% lymphocytes, hemoglobin: 13.1 gr/dl, platelet: 280000 cell /µl; normal liver function tests, biochemistry and electrolytes.

Chest X- ray (Figure 1) and high resolution lung CT Scan (HRCT) were obtained (Figure 2). Bronchoscopy, bronchoalveolar lavage and transbronchial lung biopsy were performed. (Tanaffos 2007; 6(2):92-95)