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Mismatch between gallium-67 uptake and CT findings in a case of pulmonary alveolar proteinosis

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Gallium-67 citrate (^{67}Ga) scintigraphy has been used as an indicator of activity of diffuse interstitial lung diseases. However, little has been mentioned in pulmonary alveolar proteinosis (PAP). Here we present a 53-year-old man with PAP showing patchy ^{67}Ga uptake by single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT). Interestingly, the strong ^{67}Ga uptake was observed in areas where ground-glass opacities were faint on chest CT. The uptake persisted after whole-lung lavage while the ground-glass opacity improved markedly. Although the precise mechanism of ^{67}Ga uptake remains unclear, ^{67}Ga SPECT findings may reflect the different pathological condition of PAP than that shown by CT.

Key words: pulmonary alveolar proteinosis, gallium-67 citrate, SPECT