

Title : MELIOIDOSIS: A RARE BUT EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN INDIA AND ROLE OF RADIOLOGIST IN DIAGNOSIS.

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Asbtract :

Melioidosis is an endemic disease in South East Asia and in North Australian countries caused by gram-negative bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. It was sporadic in India, but recent trend shows increase in number of the cases in the last few years making it as an emerging infectious disease. It presents with great clinical diversity, from skin ulcers to pneumonia, fulminant septic shock or abscesses in multiple organs including liver, spleen, kidney, brain and in musculoskeletal system with diabetes mellitus being the important predisposing factor. Radiologically it presents as consolidation, nodules, cavitary lesions and abscesses in lung, multiple abscesses in abdominal visceral organs, with multiple discrete abscess in liver and spleen, which are highly suggestive of melioidosis. In CNS it presents as parenchymal abscess or as calvareal osteomyelitis, in musculoskeletal system as osteomyelitis, septic arthritis and as abscess in muscle. Melioidosis is called "great mimicker" as it mimics tuberculosis and malignancy radiologically. Even though radiological findings are not specific and confirmation is by culture of blood, sputum, abscess or other body fluids, radiologist have a definite role to play in suspecting melioidosis with clinical background in endemic areas and in countries like India, where it is an emerging infectious disease.