outbreak in Ruili City near the China–Myanmar border was the largest outbreak in China during the previous decade. None of the 76 patients had rash, a finding similar to that reported in previous outbreaks in Myanmar, Thailand, and other Southeast Asia regions (8–10). In addition to the 76 cases reported here, 70 additional sporadic cases of murine typhus were reported to the Ruili CDC in 2010. We conclude that murine typhus should be considered in cases of unexplained fever with nonspecific clinical manifestations in southern Yunnan Province.

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of worsening polyarthritis. Pain in the right hand also increased, and infiltrations of the right carpal tunnel with methyprednisolone and lidocaine were performed in September and October 2010, with poor response. After that, physical examination showed mild edema and warmth of the flexor surface of the hand and reduced wrist motion. Phalen test and Tinel signs were positive. In February 2011, an outpatient electrophysiologic evaluation showed a severe right focal demyelination of the median nerve at the wrist and mild acute denervation in the abductor pollicis brevis muscle, consistent with CTS.

In August 2011, the patient was admitted to the hospital of the University of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, with poor general health, fever, cutaneous nodules on the trunk and limbs, and dyspnea. Purulent material drained from 2 fistulous nodules in the right thumb and forearm (Figure, panel A). A new CT scan of the chest indicated cystic bronchiectasis, bronchial wall thickening, and adjacent areas of consolidation. Microscopic examination of thumb secretion and sputum samples by using 10% potassium hydroxide revealed the characteristic pilot’s wheel appearance of Paracoccidioides brasiliensis, showing multiple-budding yeast cells with well-defined refringent double walls (7) (Figure, panel C). Grocott-Gomori stain of a skin biopsy specimen demonstrated yeast with the same microscopic features (7). Serologic tests for Paracoccidioides spp. were negative. Blood and thumb secretion cultures were negative for Mycobacterium spp. and fungi. Magnetic resonance imaging of the right wrist and forearm showed diffuse inflammatory infiltrates with signs of tenosynovitis and fluid collection involving the flexor compartment and extending to areas corresponding to fistulous skin lesions (online Technical Appendix, wwwnc.cdc.gov/pdfs/18/6/12-0153-Techapp.pdf).

Intravenous co-trimoxazole was prescribed, followed by oral itraconazole. Immunosuppressant drugs were withdrawn. After the patient’s general health stabilized, he underwent open carpal tunnel release, flexor tenosynovectomy, and collection of the purulent drainage. When evaluated 5 months after hospital discharge, his right hand symptoms and polyarthritis had almost completely resolved (Figure, panel B). A neurophysiologic examination demonstrated a mild improvement in distal median neuropathy. Results of serologic assessment for rheumatoid factor and antibodies against cyclic-citrullinated peptide were negative. Also, no signs of bone erosions or subcortical cysts were shown on radiograph of wrist and hand joints, which does not support the diagnosis of seronegative rheumatoid arthritis.

Although a direct search for fungi and mycobacterial agents was initially negative, paracoccidioidomycosis should still have been included in the differential diagnosis for this
the host response to treatment (Paracoccidioides). Identifying antibodies against disseminated paracoccidioidomycosis are at greatest risk for severe cell-mediated immune impairment, of disease (explain the development and severity and patient’s immune status could pathogenicity and strain virulence, Factors such as inoculum size, and enhance local fungal proliferation with corticosteroids could facilitate fungal spread. In infection foci and hematogenous reactivation of pulmonary quiescent treatment could contribute to severe pulmonary compromise, and CTS of the right hand were severe pulmonary compromise, and CTS of the right hand were the main features of his condition, and P. brasiliensis was detected on direct microscopic observation of sputum and thumb secretions. The central nervous system is a frequent extrapulmonary site of damage by paracoccidioidomycosis (2,8,9), but for paracoccidioidomycosis to cause CTS is unusual. The patient received immunosuppressive drugs during a 5-year period. The immunosuppressive treatment could contribute to reactivation of pulmonary quiescent infection foci and hematogenous fungal spread. Infiltrations of the wrist with corticosteroids could facilitate and enhance local fungal proliferation after hematogenous dissemination. Factors such as inoculum size, pathogenicity and strain virulence, and patient’s immune status could explain the development and severity of disease (2). Immunosuppressed patients, particularly those with cell-mediated immune impairment, are at greatest risk for severe disseminated paracoccidioidomycosis (6), as occurred in this patient. Identifying antibodies against Paracoccidioides spp. in patient’s serum would have helped monitor the host response to treatment (2), but he was seronegative, probably because of his immunosuppressed state. Paracoccidioidomycosis serologic testing would be useful early in the disease to help distinguish between seronegative rheumatoid arthritis and reactive arthritis. Paracoccidioidomycosis should always be suspected in P. brasiliensis–endemic areas.

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Carpal Tunnel Syndrome with Paracoccidioidomycosis

Technical Appendix

Technical Appendix Figure. Magnetic resonance image of the right wrist and forearm of patient with paracoccidioidomycosis, Brazil. Diffuse inflammatory infiltrates are shown with signs of tenosynovitis and fluid collections involving the flexor compartment and extending to areas corresponding to fistulous skin lesions. Axial T2-weighted, fat-saturated image showing increased signal intensity areas of the flexor compartment, with arrowhead indicating fluid collection (A); after gadolinium administration showing diffuse contrast enhancement (B) (arrowhead indicates fluid collection); increased signal intensity of the flexor compartment, including the median nerve, with arrows showing bulging of the flexor retinaculum (C); and after gadolinium administration showing diffuse contrast enhancement extending to subcutaneous tissue (D).