Clinical Information

Colored female, age 31, admitted Feb. 1, 1958, with slight cough and left chest pain. Chest film on Feb. 3 is shown below. She had used plastic hair spray three times a week over a period of three years. Laboratory studies were normal. Sputum was negative and skin tests for fungus were negative. The P.P.D. was positive. A scalene node was normal on biopsy. Lung biopsy March 4 was interpreted as "Loeffler's pneumonitis." It was felt that inhalation of the hair spray could not produce this pathological picture. The patient improved clinically and the roentgen signs regressed about 50 per cent. In May, a roentgenogram showed considerable progression of the pulmonary lesions.
ANSWER

A second lung biopsy was diagnosed as collagen disease, probably periarteritis nodosa. The large ill-defined nodules disseminated through the lung fields are not diagnostic of periarteritis but are encountered in this condition. The eosinophils noted on the first lung biopsy were not seen on the second biopsy made two months later. The findings on the biopsy plus the disseminated and progressive lesions in the lung should suggest the possibility of periarteritis. It is conceivable that the patient may ultimately prove to have Wegener's syndrome or allergic angiitis and granulomatosis.

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