Epidural and brain abscess following Pearl Spot fish bone injury

A 52-year-old woman developed headache, throat foreign body sensation, neck pain, and fever of 3 days duration 3 months after choking on a Pearl Spot fish bone (FB). CSF contained 2,200 cells, neutrophils (90%) with normal sugar and protein. Brain MRI showed possible occipital cerebritis (figure). CT neck revealed a retropharyngeal foreign body, abscess and emphysema, and a pharyngeal fistula. Spine MRI dem-
Determined C2–3 osteomyelitis and epidural abscess (figure). The next day 2 pieces of FB were extracted from the upper esophagus. She died after 5 days. FB injury is common with unfiled Pearl Spot fish consumption. Retropharyngeal abscesses can extend into the vertebrae resulting in osteomyelitis or cervical epidural abscesses.1,2

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