

Abstract

Although pyogenic thyroiditis is rare, the four cases have been seen and treated at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) over the last 10 years. This is a report of one of these cases detailing the clinical presentation and operative findings. A middle aged female with a large painful shining anterior neck swelling of 4 days duration. She had difficulty of swallowing, but no dyspnoea. She was febrile, with moderate anaemia, polymorph-leucocytosis (52%) and lymphocytosis (36%). Thyroid immunoglobulins were unavailable. ¹³¹Iodine uptake studies were reduced, plain x-ray of the trachea/neck was unremarkable. A thick suppurative pus from the left lobe grew on organisms. The text discusses various forms of thyroid abscesses, their causes and treatment.