

CT Diagnosis of Bronchopleural Fistula - A Case Report

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Abstract

Bronchopleural fistula is a fistulous communication between pleural space and bronchial tree, and it a part of process rather than a disease entity. The CT scan is not only important in localisation of the broncho pleural fistula but also in finding out the probable etiological factor.

Keywords: Bronchopleural fistula; CT scan

Introduction

Bronchopleural fistula is fistulous communication between pleural cavity and bronchial tree secondary to some disease process or injury. Though the x-ray can raise suspicion of the

diagnosis but the CT scan is preferred because it not only important in localisation of the broncho-pleural fistula but also in finding out the probable etiological factor.

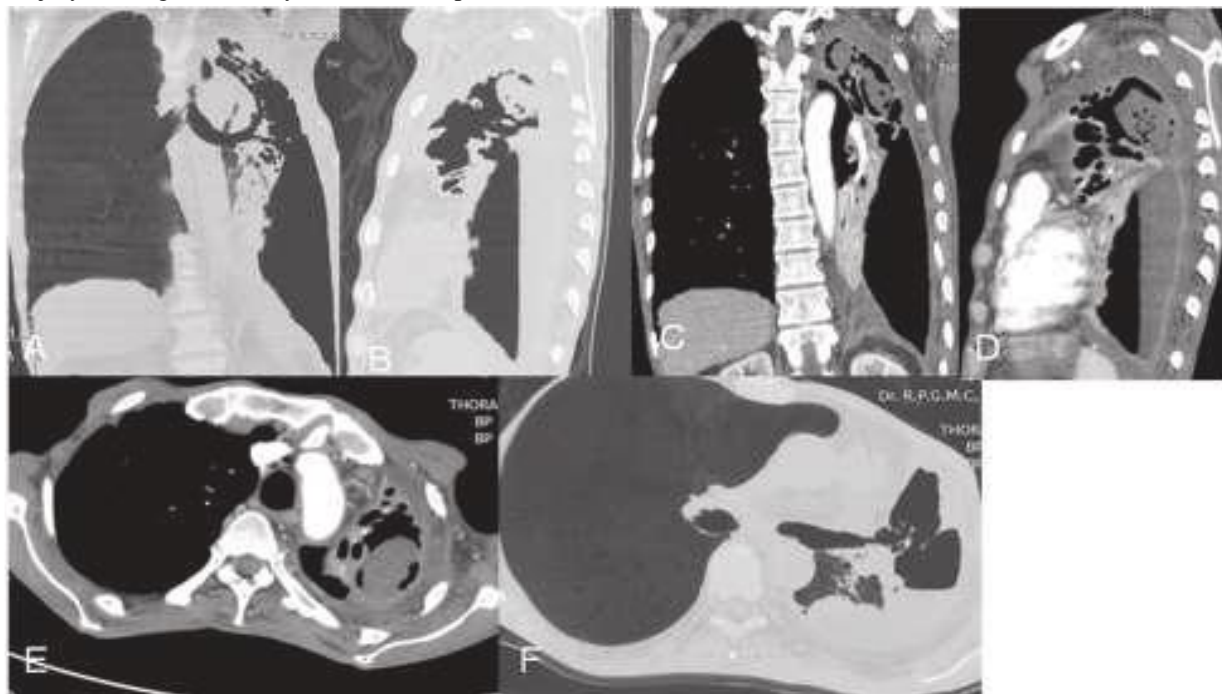


Figure 1: Diagnosis is bronchopleural fistula.

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Case Report

A 54 year old man was not able to maintain saturation CECT thorax shows connection (arrow) between left upper lobe segmental bronchi and pleural space having air-fluid level. There is presence of loss of volume on left side and also there is a cavitary lesion in left apices with aspergilloma in it. Diagnosis is bronchopleural fistula [1-6].

Discussion

Bronchopleural fistula is fistulous communication between pleural cavity and bronchial tree secondary to some disease process or injury. It can be central when the pleural cavity communicates with trachea or lobar bronchus and peripheral when occur with segmental bronchi. It may present with fever, chest pain, dyspnoea and hypoxia. Falling fluid level along with expectoration of purulent or serosanguinous material is seen.

Key imaging diagnostic clues

- Actual connection may be demonstrated though rarely seen, but drop in fluid level is seen after pneumonectomy.
- Development of hydropneumothorax without any intervention or procedure.

Differentials

Gas forming organisms causing infection in pleural space
Hydropneumothorax- may be iatrogenic.

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