

Fifteen Year Old Girl with Giant Emphysematous Bullae

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A 15 year old girl presented with history of fever and cough of 1 month duration. Chest radiograph revealed bilateral parenchymal infiltrations with cavities. Sputum Acid Fast Bacillus was positive. She was started on ATT (Anti Tubercular Therapy). At 6 months of treatment, she developed exertional dyspnoea. Repeat chest radiograph revealed giant emphysematous bullae in both lung fields (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Development of emphysematous bullae during healing of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been reported in 8 children, last being in 1967 [1-3]. Lesions appear soon after ATT (7-60 days) and reach maximum distension at 7 months. They disappear with time (6-15 months) and have favourable outcome [3]. One known complication is pneumothorax. Treatment is supportive. Excision has been advocated for persistent symptomatic lesions confined to localised areas. Our patient received supportive treatment. Currently she is well and chest X-ray at the end of 1 year revealed partial resolution of bullae (Figure 3).

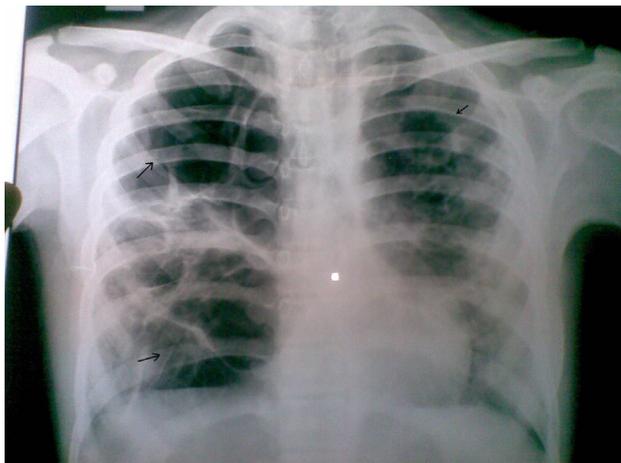


Figure 1: Plain chest radiograph (postero anterior view) revealing giant emphysematous bullae in both lung fields.



Figure 2: Plain chest radiograph (lateral view) revealing giant emphysematous bullae.

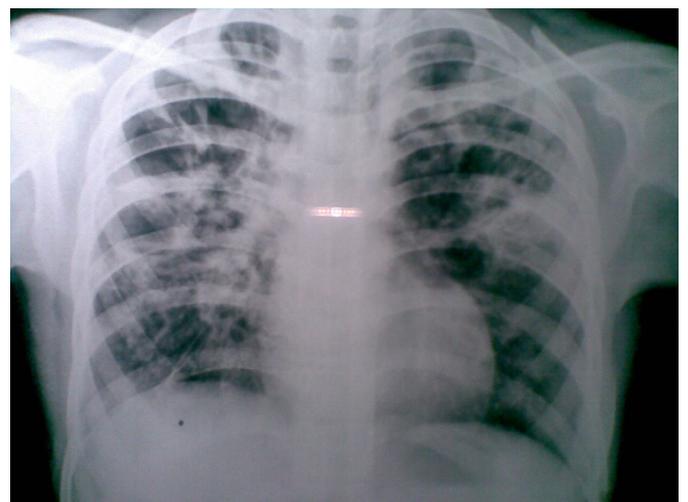


Figure 3: Follow up plain chest radiograph (postero anterior view) revealing resolution of emphysematous bullae.

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