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Tracheopleural Fistula: Rare Complication of Pulmonary Tuberculosis

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Tracheopleural Fistula: Rare Complication of Pulmonary Tuberculosis

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Tracheopleural fistula is an extremely rare complication of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis as no similar case being published previously. A 52-year-old gentleman with history of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) 20 years ago, was presented with lethargy for 2 weeks associated with occasional haemoptysis. There was loss of weight and loss of appetite. No fever, shortness of breath, chest pain or night sweat. On examination, he was pale, afebrile, normotensive and not tachycardic. There was

reduced air entry on the right lung with generalized coarse crepitations. Chest radiograph (Figure 1a) showed right pneumothorax. Contrast-enhanced CT Thorax (Figure 1b and 1c) confirmed presence of tracheopleural fistulae with thick-walled right pneumothorax. He was given intravenous (IV) tranexamic acid, blood transfusion and metered-dose inhaler (MDI) berodual and spiriva. He was stable under room air and discharged well after 5 days. He was planned for optimization of medical treatment as he refused surgical intervention or bronchoscopy. Chest tube was not done due to patient's refusal and clinically the oxygen saturation was acceptable. Tracheopleural fistula is rare and usually seen among cancer patients after chemotherapy (1). As opposed to tracheopleural fistula, tuberculous bronchopleural fistula is commonly seen although both conditions are rare (2). Clinical manifestations are varied among individuals and direction of treatment should be tailored individually to achieve good quality of life.

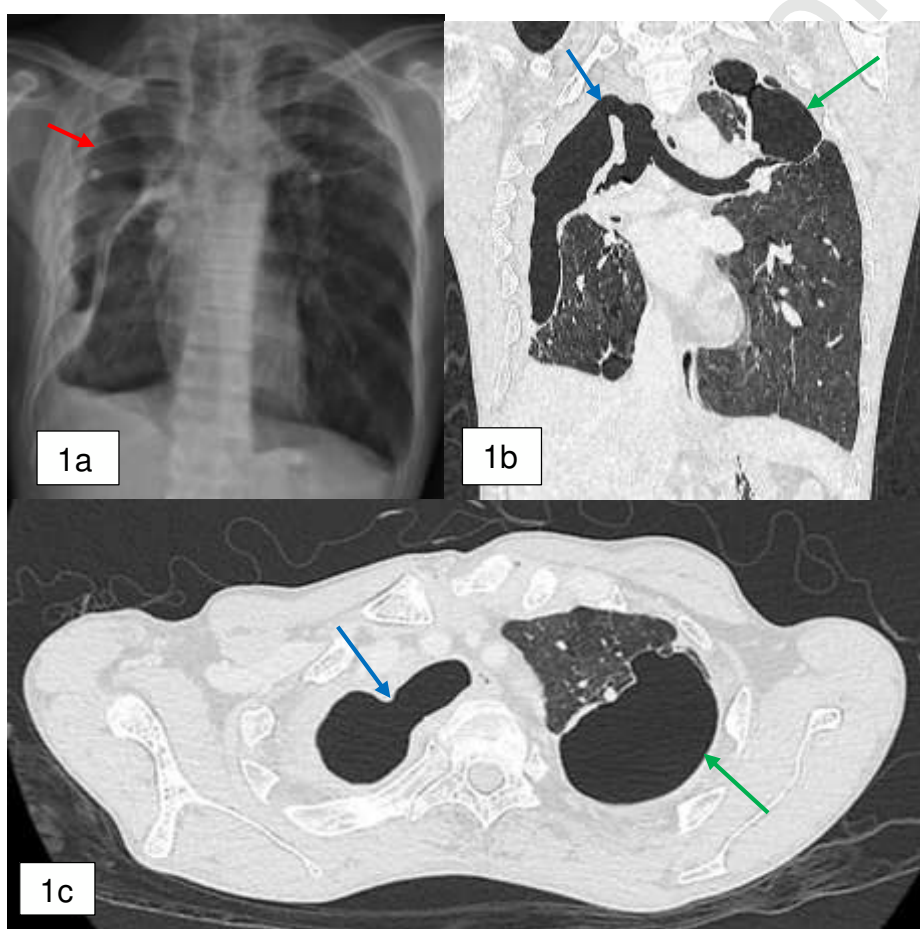


Figure 1: Chest radiograph showed right pneumothorax with pleural thickening (red arrow) (1a). CECT Thorax in coronal (1b) and axial (1c) views revealed tracheal wall defects with direct communication with the pleural cavity, representing tracheopleural fistula (blue arrows). Left upper lobe lung bullae (green arrows) (1b,1c)

Reference:

1. Khatun M, Julson J, Taylor DW, Foxworthy BO, Beierle EA, Aye JM. Invasive pulmonary aspergillosis presenting with tracheopleural fistula in a pediatric patient with a history of rhabdomyosarcoma. *J Pediatr Surg Case Rep.* 2023 May;92:102602. doi: 10.1016/j.epsc.2023.102602. Epub 2023 Mar 11. PMID: 37205179; PMCID: PMC10191420.
2. 4. Yanti B, Hadi S, Harrika F, Shehzad A. Giant bronchopleural fistula and empyema in a tuberculosis patient with diabetes mellitus: Vista from a high tuberculosis burden country in Southeast Asia. *Narra J.* 2022 Aug;2(2):e81. doi: 10.52225/narra.v2i2.81. Epub 2022 Aug 1. PMID: 38449704; PMCID: PMC10914118.

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No

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No

3. Does your study include a clinical trial?:

No

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Yes