

Clinical Image

Spontaneous Pneumorrhachis: A Rare Finding

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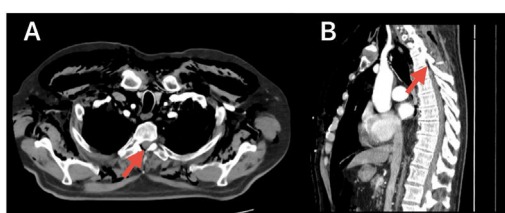


Fig. 1. Chest computed tomography in axial (A) and sagittal (B) views demonstrating pneumorrhachis (red arrows).

A 68-year-old man with no relevant medical history was admitted for atypical pneumonia and developed subcutaneous emphysema after a coughing episode. Computed tomography (CT) revealed extensive subcutaneous emphysema dissecting the cervical and thoracic fascial planes, air within the spinal canal (Fig. 1), small bilateral pneumothoraces, pneumomediastinum, and pneumopericardium. Pneumorrhachis is air in the spinal canal (epidural or subarachnoid space). Its etiology may be iatrogenic, traumatic, or spontaneous. It is usually asymptomatic and does not tend to migrate [1]. Diagnosis is based on imaging, preferably CT. Spontaneous pneumorrhachis is rare and usually does not require intervention [2].

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Natalia Cenci-Nizzo: Conceptualization, writing – original draft. Álvaro Fuentes-Martín and Ángel Cilleruelo-Ramos: Review & editing.

Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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