Picture Quiz: A Case of Sudden Severe Chest Pain

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Case History

An 18-year-old male with no previous medical history presented to hospital with sudden onset of acute epigastric pain radiating to the anterior chest wall and both shoulders. There was no history of recent trauma and he had not been vomiting.

On examination, he appeared comfortable at rest with a respiratory rate of 18 breaths per minute and oxygen saturation of 92% on room air. He was apyrexial, pulse was regular and blood pressure was normal. Cardiovascular and respiratory system examination were. Abdomen was soft and non-tender.

The patient underwent chest x-ray, followed by CT scan of the thorax (see Figure 1 and 2).

Questions:

1. What abnormality is shown on the chest x-ray?
2. What further abnormalities are shown on the CT and what are their significance?

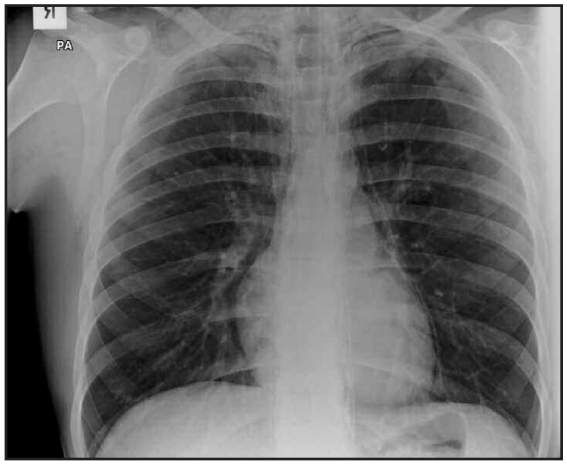


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

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