

A Chest X-Ray causing confusion

T Novak & C Strait



Figure 1. Chest X-ray

Case history

A 91-year old female presented to Acute Medical Unit with a 2 week history of shortness of breath and haemoptysis. Her past medical history included osteoporosis, depression, irritable bowel syndrome, asthma, cataracts, and a colonic polypectomy. Her medications: Citalopram 10 mg, Co-codamol, Beclomethasone 200 mcg inhaler, Salbutamol MDI inhaler, Omeprazole 20 mg and Alendronic acid. She was an ex-smoker with a 20-pack year history who had stopped smoking 40-years ago. She did not drink alcohol and lived alone independently.

On examination her respiratory rate was 18/min, blood pressure was 147/80 mmHg, she was tachycardic with a heart rate of 90 /min oxygen saturation were 96% on 2Litres/min oxygen via nasal prongs. Her temperature was 37.7 degrees centigrade. There was no finger clubbing. On auscultation there were crepitations predominantly on the right side up to the midzone. There were also some crepitations heard at the left lung base.

Her heart rate was regular. There was a pansystolic murmur loudest in the axilla. Her jugular venous pressure was 5 centimetres above the sternal angle. She had no ankle oedema.

Initial investigations showed a C-reactive protein (CRP) of 127 mg/L, white cell count of 7.4 $10^9/L$, haemoglobin 105 g/L, MCV 88, albumin 33 g/L. Her clotting, urea and electrolytes and liver function tests were normal. An Electrocardiogram (ECG) showed sinus tachycardia. Her Chest X-Ray is shown below (Figure 1).

Questions

1. What abnormalities are shown on the CXR?
2. What is the likely cause of the abnormalities seen in figure 1?
3. What other causes are there of this phenomenon?

Conflict of Interest

Nothing to declare

Timea Novak
Specialty Doctor in Acute
Medicine
Great Western Hospital
Swindon
Severn Deanery

Catherine Strait
MRCP
Consultant in Acute
Medicine
Great Western Hospital
Swindon
Severn Deanery

Correspondence
Timea Novak
Specialty Doctor in Acute
Medicine
Great Western Hospital
Swindon
Severn Deanery
Email: t.novak@nhs.net