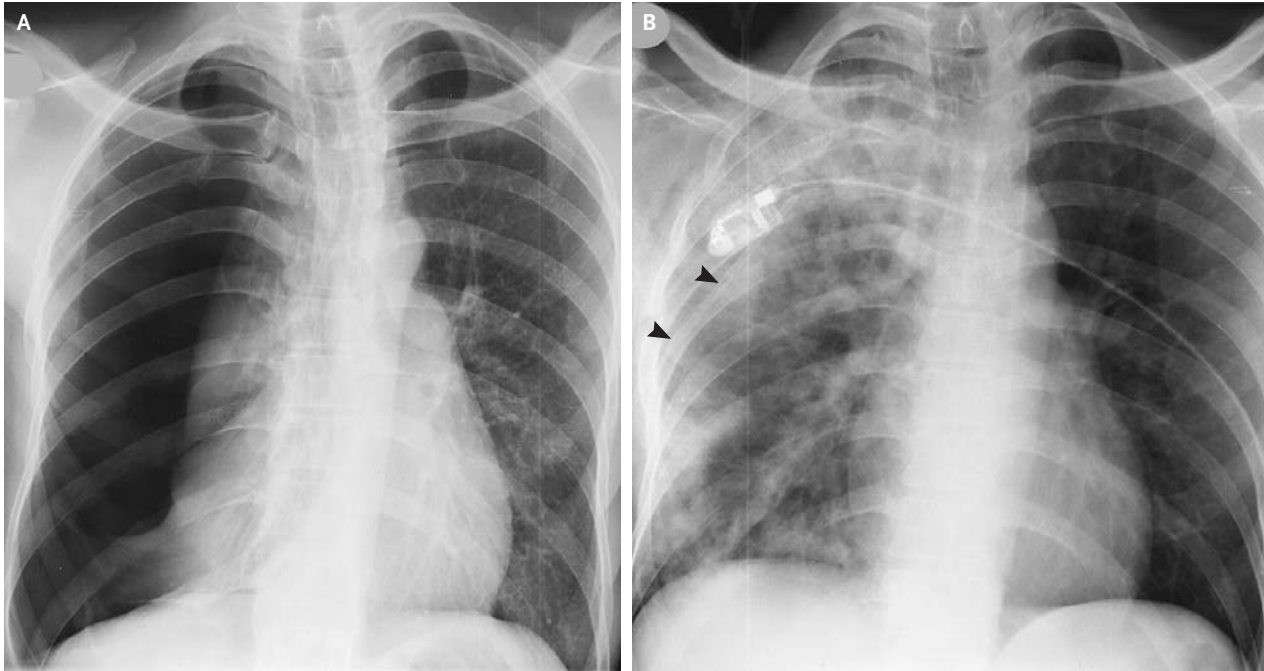


IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Reexpansion Pulmonary Edema after Treatment of Pneumothorax



Syed Mohammad Tariq, F.R.C.P.
Tabinda Sadaf, M.B., B.S.

Sultan Qaboos University Hospital
Muscat, Oman

A 50-YEAR-OLD SMOKER PRESENTED WITH ACUTE-ONSET BREATHLESSNESS and right-sided chest pain of four days' duration. There was no history of chest trauma. A posteroanterior chest radiograph (Panel A) demonstrated a right-sided pneumothorax. His symptoms improved immediately on placement of a chest tube. Two hours later, he again became breathless, and examination revealed extensive right-sided chest crackles. Chest radiography was repeated and showed a fully expanded right lung (Panel B), albeit with features of pulmonary edema. The arrowheads in Panel B show the position of the chest tube. The patient's condition improved after continuous positive airway pressure was delivered through a face mask overnight. The chest tube was removed after three days. At follow-up six weeks later, the patient was asymptomatic and well. The results of further investigations were consistent with the presence of mild chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

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