

Chronic Diaphragmatic Impairment with Kyphosis: Yielding to Pressure

Sacha Bhinder and William Cherniak*

¹Department of Emergency Medicine, Rouge Valley Health System, Canada

²Department of Emergency Medicine-The Markham Stouffville Hospital, Canada

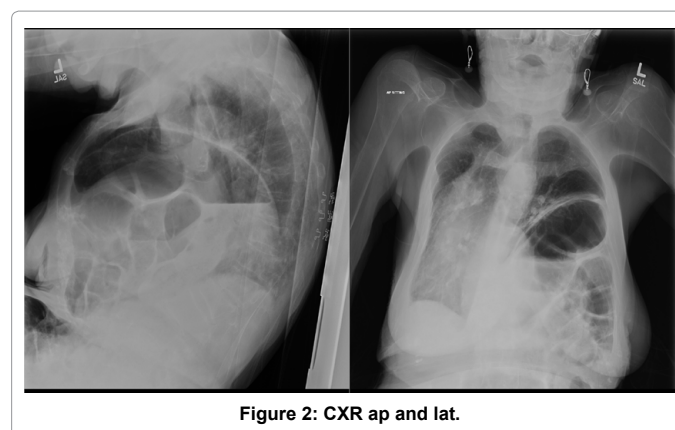
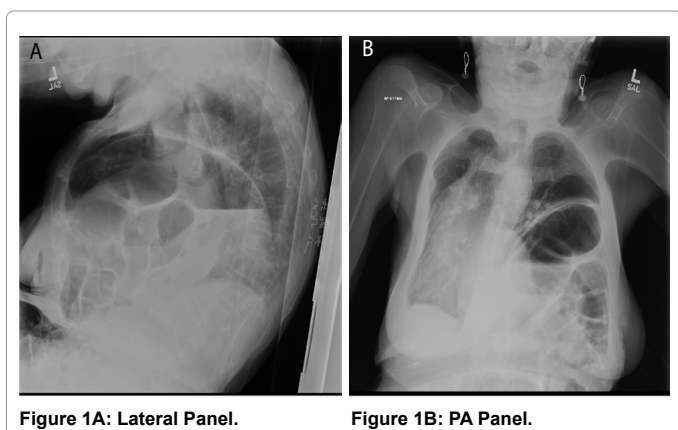
³Clinical Supervisor, Health for All-Markham Family Medicine Teaching Unit, Canada

⁴Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto, Canada

Clinical Image

A 90 year-old patient with a clinical diagnosis of COPD presented to an urban Canadian emergency department with a complaint of progressive dyspnea for two years despite multiple courses of bronchodilator, antibiotic, and prednisone therapy. Prior chest imaging had not been performed. The patient had a history of progressive functional decline, dyspnea at rest, non-productive cough with wheeze, and progressive height loss. A routine chest radiograph performed by

the Emergency Physician demonstrated a kyphotic spine with marked elevation of an intact left hemidiaphragm (Figure 1A), with migration of abdominal contents cranially into the left hemithorax. Cardiac deviation into the right hemithorax was associated with compressive atelectasis of the right lung, rightward tracheal deviation, and rightward migration of the descending aorta and cardiac apex (Figure 1 B). Diaphragmatic paralysis is an uncommon cause of dyspnea with a broad differential diagnosis. Potentially masquerading as obstructive airways disease, it requires imaging to exclude (Figure 2).



*Corresponding author: William Cherniak, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto, Canada, Tel: +1 416-978-2011; E-mail: w.cherniak@mail.utoronto.ca

Received May 19, 2015; Accepted May 27, 2015; Published May 29, 2015

Citation: Bhinder S, Cherniak W (2015) Chronic Diaphragmatic Impairment with Kyphosis: Yielding to Pressure. J Clin Case Rep 5: i111. doi:[10.4172/2165-7920.1000i111](https://doi.org/10.4172/2165-7920.1000i111)

Copyright: © 2015 Bhinder S, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.