Air! Places We Not Ought to See It: Incidentally Detected Spontaneous Pneumomediastinum Complicated by Cervical Emphysema on Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography

Abstract

Spontaneous pneumomediastinum is a rare condition, characterized by the presence of air in the mediastinum without any apparent precipitating cause. It is mainly a radiological diagnosis. The onus of differentiating between secondary and spontaneous pneumomediastinum lies on a thorough workup. In addition to etiology, complications such as tension pneumomediastinum, cervical emphysema, and pneumorachis. When present, must be diagnosed promptly. Spontaneous pneumomediastinum is a benign condition which is usually managed conservatively. Although not routinely seen on positron emission tomography/computed tomography, when present, they must be picked up and reported accurately to guide appropriate management of the patient.

Keywords: Cervical emphysema, incidental, paraneoplastic encephalitis, positron emission tomography/computed tomography, spontaneous pneumomediastinum

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pneumomediastinum is not routinely encountered on PET/CT. SPM if found during PET/CT studies must be appropriately identified and reported to guide further management of the patient.

**Informed consent**

Informed consent from the patient was obtained to be included in the study.

**Declaration of patient consent**

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form, the patient has given his consent for his images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patient understands that name and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal the identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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**Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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