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A Case Series on Pneumomediastinum in Covid-19 Patients

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Spontaneous pneumomediastinum is a rare pathology, usually found in patients with pre-existing lung pathology, bacterial infection, or mechanical pulmonary ventilation. Pneumomediastinum is not characteristic for viral pneumonia but has been reported in patients with COVID-19 infection despite the fact that the patient was not treated with artificial lung ventilation. The presence of pneumomediastinum in patients with COVID-19 infection is a potentially life-threatening complication that may alter further treatment and investigation tactics. Case series of four patients with COVID-19 infection and spontaneous pneumomediastinum. Data was retrieved from medical documentation from Riga East University Hospital. Three male patients aged 53, 57, 70 and two female patients aged 70 and 75 years with COVID-19 infection which complicated with pneumomediastinum and were not treated with mechanical pulmonary ventilation. These patients presented with fever, dry cough, dyspnea, bilateral pneumonia and pneumomediastinum presentation of variable severity. All patients were oxygen-dependent, most of patients has polymorbidity. Spontaneous pneumomediastinum is a rare condition usually seen in patients with underlying pulmonary disease, nonviral infections or patients receiving mechanical ventilation.

It has been described in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia, despite no history of mechanical ventilation, while not commonly seen in other viral pneumonias. The presence of pneumomediastinum in patients with COVID-19 infection should alert the clinician to monitor the patients carefully for possible worsening of disease. The exact mechanism for which pneumomediastinum occurs in COVID-19 patients still remains unclear. Further research in this area should be conducted

Keywords:

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