

Image Diagnosis: Pneumomediastinum

Charlene Kiang, MD
Gus Garmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM

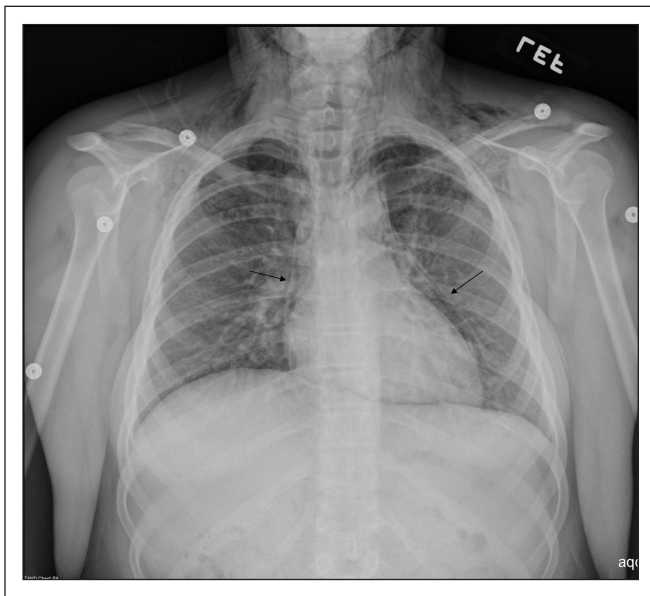


Figure 1. Anterior-posterior chest radiograph

An adolescent girl, age 14 years, presents to the Emergency Department after one week of cough with chest pain, neck pain, and shortness of breath.

Chest radiograph shows pneumomediastinum. Air is seen outlining the mediastinal structures and the pericardium. Pneumomediastinum can occur because of the increased pressures seen with sneezing, coughing, vomiting, and the valsalva maneuver.

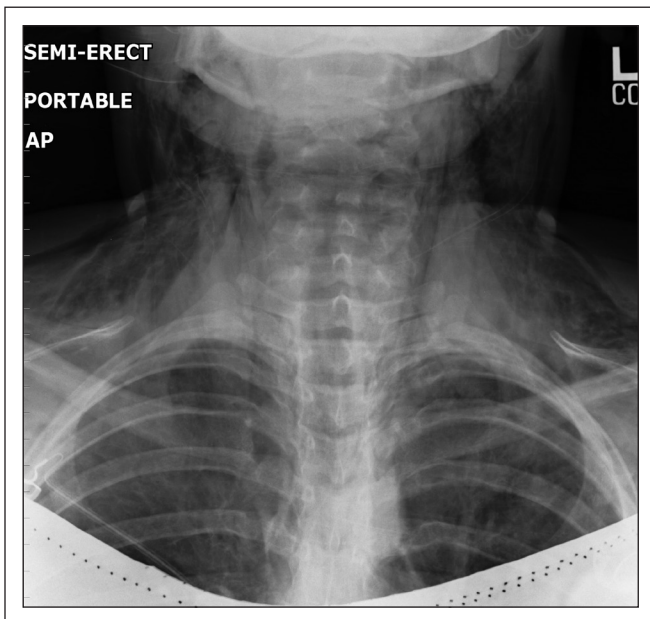


Figure 2. Anterior-posterior neck radiograph

Anterior-posterior view of the neck in the same patient shows significant subcutaneous emphysema throughout the neck soft tissues extending into the upper chest.

Charlene Kiang, MD, is a Senior Emergency Medicine Resident in the Stanford/Kaiser Emergency Medicine Residency Program in Stanford, CA. E-mail: ckiang@stanford.edu.
Gus M Garmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, is a Senior Emergency Medicine Physician at the Kaiser Santa Clara Medical Center, Co-Program Director of the Stanford/Kaiser Emergency Medicine Residency Program, and Clinical Professor (Affiliated) of Surgery (Emergency Medicine) at Stanford University School of Medicine in CA. He is also a Senior Editor for *The Permanente Journal*. E-mail: gus.garmel@kp.org.