INTERNAL MEDICINE

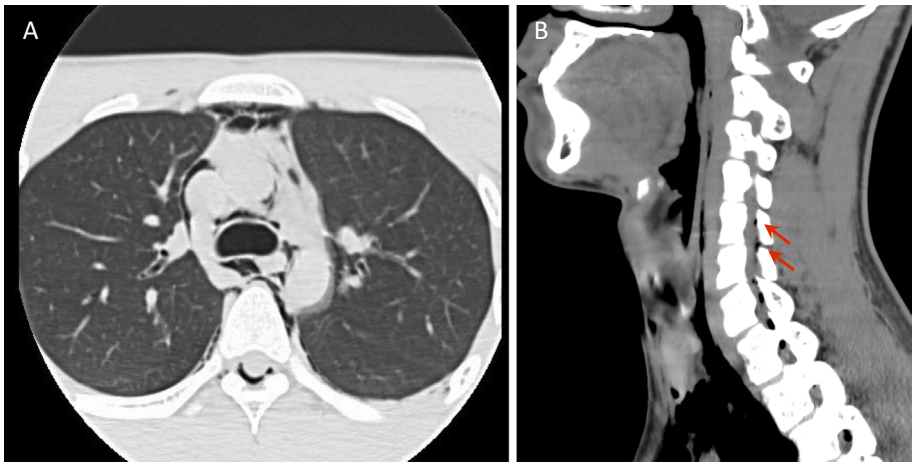
□ PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE □

Pneumomediastinum with Ascending Emphysema within the Spinal Canal

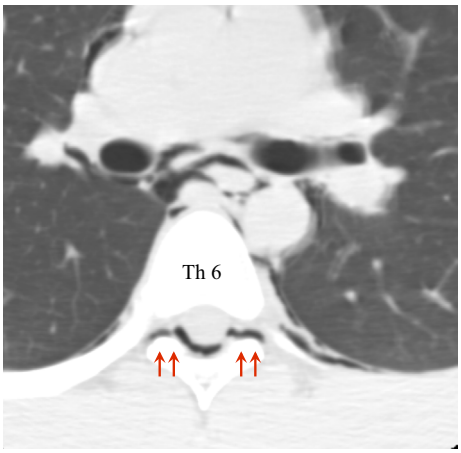
Keishi Oda, Hiroaki Ikegami, Issei Ikushima and Kazuhiro Yatera

Key words: pneumomediastinum, emphysema, spinal canal

(Intern Med 56: 1117-1118, 2017)
(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.56.8136)



Picture 1.



Picture 2.

A 16-year-old boy vomited due to heatstroke during a soccer game but continued to train hard after the game. He was admitted to our hospital for chest discomfort three days later. Chest radiograph demonstrated pneumomediastinum, and computed tomography of the neck revealed emphysema within the spinal canal (Picture 1A) at cervical level 5 (Picture 1B, red arrows). Barium esophagography revealed no fistulas. He was diagnosed with spontaneous pneumomediastinum and treated conservatively by bed rest. Five days after admission, he was discharged from our hospital. Although a previous study reported that pneumomediastinum patients occasionally have emphysema within the spinal canal (1), emphysema up to cervical level 5 is extremely rare. This rare condition was thought to be an aftereffect of emphysema within the mediastinum through the intervertebral foramen (Picture 2, red arrows) ascending to the spinal canal due to continuous hard excise.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

Department of Respiratory Medicine, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan
Received for publication August 17, 2016; Accepted for publication August 24, 2016
Correspondence to Dr. Keishi Oda, oda-keishi@med.uoeh-u.ac.jp

Reference

1. Belotti EA, Rizzi M, Rodoni-Cassis P, Ragazzi M, Zanolari-Caledrerari M, Bianchetti MG. Air within the spinal canal in spontaneous pneumomediastinum. Chest **137**: 1197-1200, 2011.