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IMAGE OF THE MONTH

Subpleural artifact in lung pulse evidenced by M-mode ultrasound in a patient with atelectasis

Artefacto subpleural en pulso pulmonar evidenciado mediante ultrasonidos en modo M en un paciente con atelectasia

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A 46-years-old man was admitted to the intensive care unit with the diagnosis of respiratory failure due to pneumonia. After intubation, the chest X-ray showed atelectasis of right upper and middle lobes, a right lower lobe infiltrate, the tracheal tube tip was located inadvertently into the proximal right bronchus and the left bronchus was ventilated at this time (Fig. 2). Exploration by M-mode ultrasound (US) showed a small pleural effusion with loss of sinusoid sign, a pulsatile pleural (thin arrow) and subpleural lines, this last one not corresponding to A lines (thick arrow). These pulsatile lines were synchronic with lung pulse observed by 2D-mode (Fig. 1). Lung pulse is a sign reflecting the transmission of heartbeats to the adjacent lung in the case of atelectasis or pulmonary consolidation. To our knowledge, this is the first report of the lung pulse showing a subpleural pulsatile artifact.

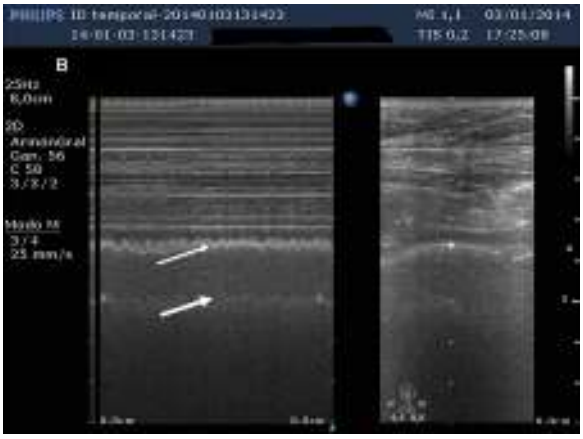

Figure 1 M-mode US showing pulsatile pleural (thin arrow) and pulsatile subpleural lines (thick arrow).

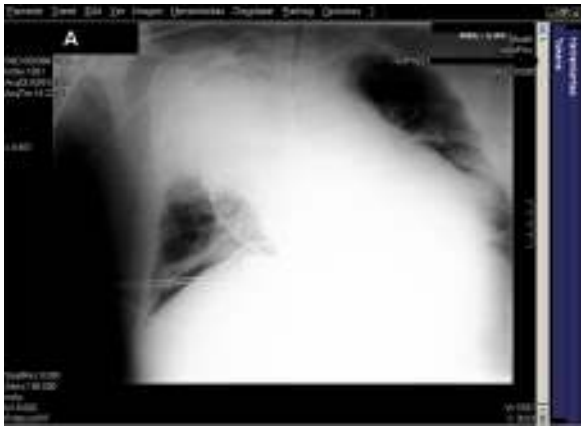

Figure 2 The chest X-ray showed right upper and middle lobes atelectasis. The ultrasound exploration was performed over these lobes.

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