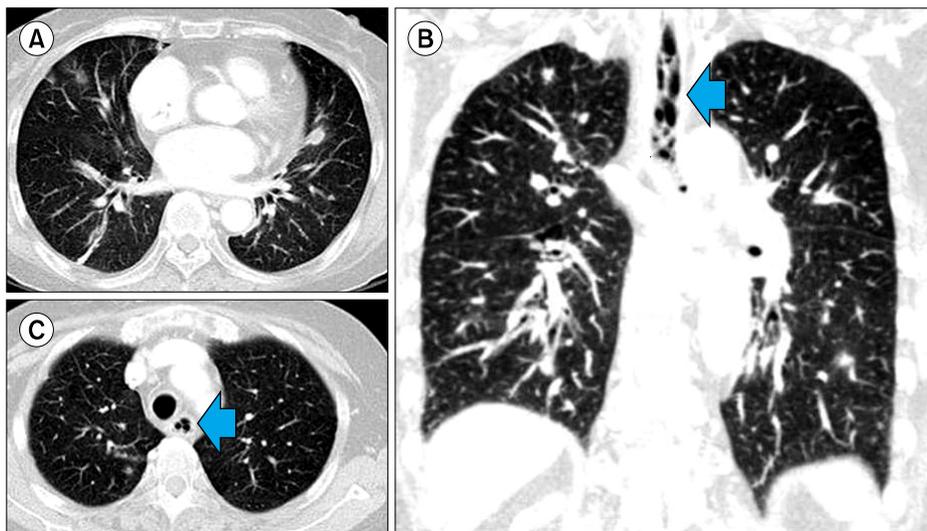


Fortuitous detection of esophageal pneumatosis in a neutropenic patient

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A 62-year-old woman with relapsed acute myeloid leukemia occurring 181 days after autologous stem-cell transplantation underwent reinduction chemotherapy as per the FLANG regimen (fludarabine 30 mg/m²/day, cytosine arabinoside 1 g/m²/day, mitoxantrone 10 mg/m²/day, and granulocyte colony-stimulating factor 300 µg/day for 5 days). On post-chemotherapy day 5, neutropenic fever developed and empirical antibiotic therapy was prescribed. Chest radiography performed 3 days later revealed several patchy consolidations on both lung fields. Physical examination yielded unremarkable results, except mild oral mucositis. Serum galactomannan assay was elevated (>6.4). Chest computed tomography (CT) showed multifocal, patchy consolidations with surrounding ground-glass opacities in both lung parenchyma and infiltration along the bronchial trees (A). Further, we detected esophageal wall thickening with intramuscular air bubbles in the upper esophagus but sparing gastric and lower intestinal walls, indicating esophageal pneumatosis (B, C arrow). Since the patient reported no associated symptoms, no active treatment was considered other than total parenteral nutrition while amphoteric was added. Follow-up chest CT 14 days later revealed regression of pneumatosis but progression of pneumonia with cavity formation. Despite intensive management with daily donor granulocyte transfusions and mechanical ventilation, the patient died of progressive acute respiratory distress syndrome on post-chemotherapy day 43.