

" Azygos lobe as a rare incidental finding (Case Report)"

Author

Samir Mohamed Fahyim

Pulmonology department faculty of medicine Port saeed University

Introduction

As regard human anatomy the azygos lobe is considered a congenital anomaly of the upper lobe of the right lung. In embryology, the pleural septum of the upper lobe the lateral course of azygos vein arises in abnormal manner. It considered not a true lobe as it has no vessels, bronchi or even accessory, pulmonary lobe, but considered separated part of the upper lobe. It is usually discovered accidentally on chest x-ray or computed tomography and is not associated with any morbidity but can cause technical problems in thoraco-scopic maneuvers.

History

36 years old female patient known case of bronchial asthma on medical treatment with multiple remissions and exacerbation but with no hospital admission presented with cough and expectoration as an exacerbation of bronchial asthma.

Examination

General: chronic nasal discharge, nasal tone.

Local examination: No abnormality detected except for auscultation; equal intensity of HVB with bilateral inspiratory and expiratory sibilant rhonchi and inspiratory fine fixed crepitation on the mammary areas more on the left side. (Cause of CT request).

Investigation

- **Chest x-ray:** As shown in figure (1) there was small Para-tracheal line on right upper lobe and needs further assessment with CT chest.

- **Ct chest without contrast:** As shown in Figure (2) Ct chest showing fissure appearance in the right upper lobe representing azygos lobe.

Radiology

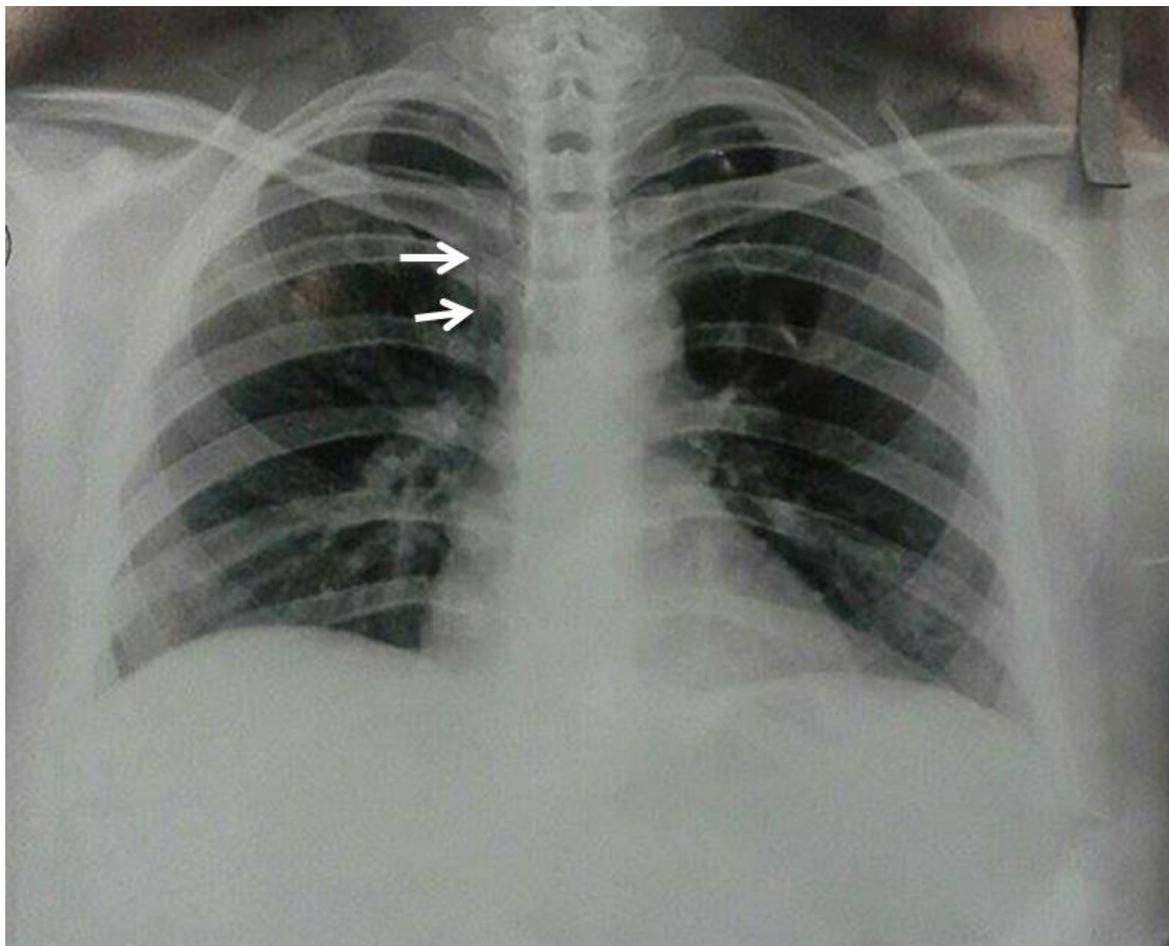


Figure 1: Chest x-ray PA view: showing small line in right upper lobe (white arrows)



Figure 2: Ct chest showing fissures appearance in the right upper lobe representing azygos lobe (White arrow)

Conclusion and Clinical Message

Azygos vein laterally is displaced into apical segment of right upper lobe leading to deep pleural fissure during embryological development resulting in formation of azygos lobe. No problem or disease result from this anatomical variant but must be considered during thoracic surgeries as also it is not even accessory lobe as it does not has normal structures of true lobe. Azygos lobe is found in 1% of anatomic specimens.

References:

- 1) George Bray MB(1932) Two cases of Accessory lobe of the azygos vein. Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine 26(2)148–149.
- 2) Cimen M, Erdil H and Karatepe T (2005) A cadaver with Azygos lobe and its clinical significance. Anatomical Science International . 80(4) 235-237.