

Tracheoesophageal Fistula-A Manifestation of Esophageal Cancer

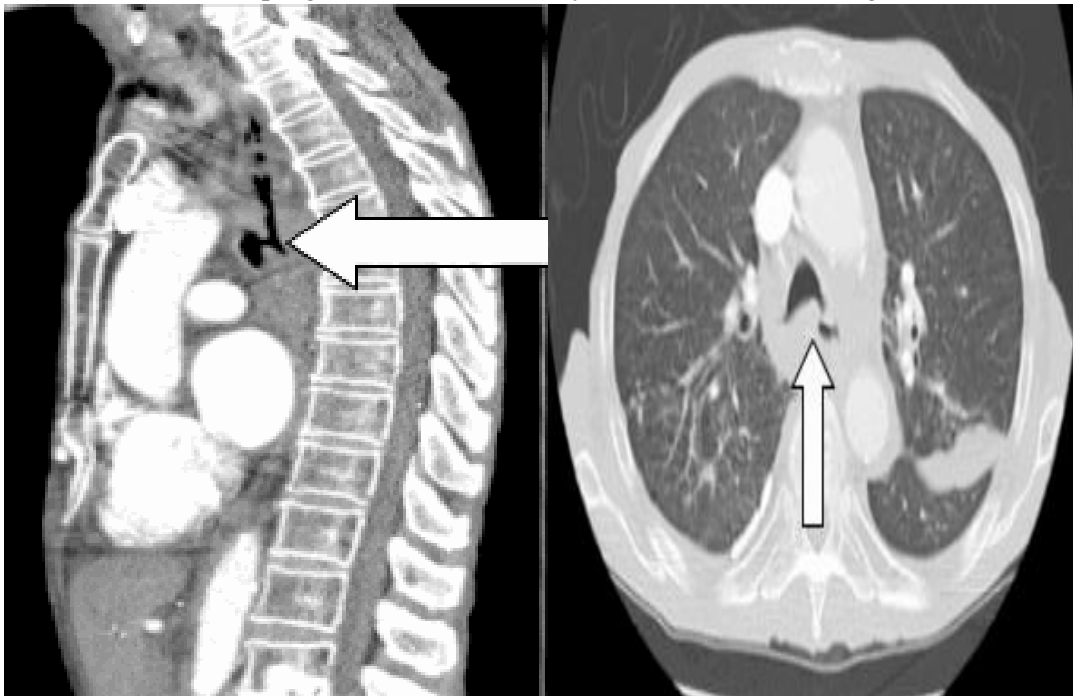
Nathan Claydon¹

¹Department of Medicine, University of Tennessee College of Medicine at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA

A 78-year old male with a past medical history of treated tuberculosis, tobacco abuse (greater than 75 pack-years), and alcohol abuse, presented with complaints of hemoptysis and odynophagia. His vital signs were normal. Lab work was within normal limits except for haemoglobin of 6.9 mg/dL, international normalized ratio of 1.27, and pre-albumin <3 mg/dL. Physical examination revealed severe cachexia, diffuse wheezing and rhonchi on auscultation, most pronounced in the right middle and lower lung fields. A CT scan

(images below) showed the presence of a tracheoesophageal fistula. He underwent an esophagogastroduodenoscopy, during which biopsies of the proximal and mid-esophagus were obtained. Pathology revealed invasive, moderately differentiated, keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma. An esophageal metal stent was placed for palliation and patient was discharged under hospice care.

Figure 1: Tracheoesophageal fistula as shown by arrows on CT scan images



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Correspondence to: Dr Nathan Claydon

Address: Department of Medicine, University of Tennessee College of Medicine at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA

E-mail: nathanclaydon@gmail.com

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