Cardiogenic Unilateral Pulmonary Edema

Sir,

A 35 years man presented with severe dyspnea for two days. Fine crackles were present at the left infrascapular area. ECG showed left ventricular hypertrophy and left axis deviation. X-ray chest showed unilateral infiltrates with 'bat-wing' appearance in left lung field (Fig. 1). Echocardiography revealed dilated and poorly contractile left ventricle. Treatment with diuretics resulted in rapid improvement of symptoms and disappearance of infiltrates within 12 hours.

Unilateral pulmonary edema (UPE) due to left heart failure is a distinctly uncommon condition. It mostly affects the right lung. The exact cause is not known but various hypotheses put forward include the effect of gravity and posture, variation in pulmonary venous pressure and disturbances of neurogenic control of capillaries and their permeability. Cardiogenic origin of the infiltrates is supported by their rapid clearing after diuretic therapy. The awareness of this unusual condition helps in early initiation of proper therapy. This case is of particular importance because of the rarity cardiogenic UPE in left lung.

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Announcement
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