

REVIEW OF PNEUMOTHORAX CASES IN ADULTS AND CHILDREN MANAGED IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT IN PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE LAST YEAR

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Introduction:

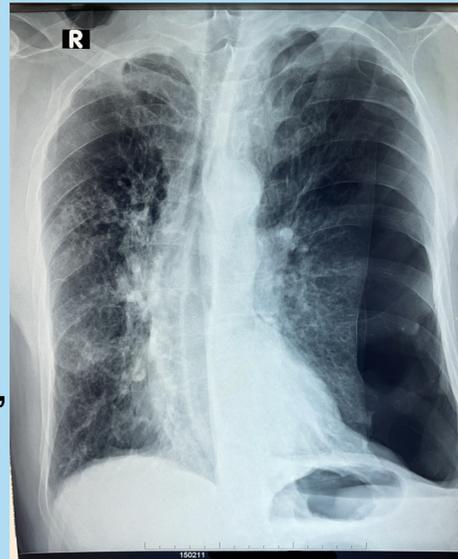
Pneumothorax is a common emergency encountered in the Emergency Department (ED), arising from various causes, including trauma, iatrogenic injuries, or spontaneous events. Prompt recognition and appropriate management are critical to prevent severe complications such as shock or hypoxia.

Objective:

To review pneumothorax cases managed in the ED, documenting causes, types, management strategies, and outcomes in a mixed population of adults and children.

Materials & Methods:

A retrospective review was conducted of pneumothorax cases admitted to the ED over one year (2024). Data collected included age, sex, pneumothorax type (traumatic, open, spontaneous), etiology, clinical presentation, management (conservative, chest tube insertion, surgical intervention), and patient outcomes.



Results:

A total of 60 pneumothorax cases were recorded, including 42 adults (70%) and 18 children (30%). In adults, the main causes were traumatic (blunt trauma: 20, penetrating trauma: 10) and spontaneous (12). In children, 10 cases were due to blunt trauma and 8 were spontaneous pneumothoraces. The majority (45 patients, 75%) were treated with chest tube placement, 10 patients (16.7%) received conservative management, and 5 patients (8.3%) required surgical intervention. No serious complications were reported in patients who received timely management.

Conclusions:

Pneumothorax remains an important emergency in the ED, with characteristics varying according to age and mechanism of injury. Timely diagnosis and appropriate intervention—whether conservative or invasive—ensure safe recovery and prevent complications. The review highlights the importance of organized management protocols in emergency settings for optimal patient outcomes.

