

An uncommon case of Hamman's syndrome

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Clinical Image Description

A 15-year-old boy presented to the Accident and Emergency department for the sudden onset of chest pain and dyspnoea at rest. No pathology in anamnesis. He has denied smoking, trauma, strains, coughing and vomiting. A chest X-ray was performed: it documented the presence of pneumomediastinum, in addition to subcutaneous emphysema in correspondence of the supraclavicular regions and the right lateral thoracic wall with a diagnosis of Hamman's syndrome. The patient was subjected to chest CT that confirmed the findings highlighted on the X-ray, with no evidence of pulmonary blebs or pneumothorax. The patient was then hospitalized; bronchoscopy and esophagogastroduodenoscopy turned out negative. No invasive treatment has been undertaken, with complete resolution of the clinical anomalies in 10 days. Hamman's syndrome is a rare but possible entity, especially in young patients, even in the absence of risk factors.

