

Acute Hypoxaemia and Right Ventricular Compression By A Mediastinal Mass

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Abstract

Patients with mediastinal masses rarely face unexpected life threatening airway obstruction perioperatively (¹). With recent awareness of intra-operative management of these patients, major airway obstruction is now occurring more frequently post-operatively (²). The degree of obstruction is related to the size of mediastinal mass and its extension into the thoracic cavity. Critical narrowing of the airways can occur and severe hypoxemia may supervene which may not respond to conventional therapy and outcome can be fatal (³). Several modes of management have been suggested in several case reports (⁴, ⁵). In this case presentation, we describe a life threatening upper airway obstruction in a patient with a large mediastinal mass. Her acute respiratory failure was managed by Pressure Control Ventilation (PCV).