Traumatic Chylothorax: A case report

Abbas Ghodrati *[1], Reza Bagheri [2], Majid Hassanzadeh [1], Zohre Najafi [1], Hamid Reza Akbarian[3]

1- Faculty Member, Torbat Heydariyeh University of Medical Sciences, Torbat Heydariyeh, Iran

2- Department of Thoracic Surgery, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran

3- Torbat Heydariyeh University of Medical Sciences, Torbat Heydariyeh, Iran

***Corresponding Address: Torbat Heydariyeh University of Medical Sciences, Razi st., North Ferdowsi av., Torbat Heydariyeh, Khorasan razavi, Iran.**

Email Address: ghodrati1171@yahoo.com

Abstract

Background & Aim: Chylothorax is a rare complication that is created following the leakage of lymph fluid from thoracic duct into the pleural space. This situation reduces the lung volume and in case of not being controlled, can lead to respiratory distress, cyanosis and even death. This study introduces a case of traumatic chylothorax.

Case Report: In this study, the patient was a 12 year old female experiencing shortness of breath and respiratory distress since 5 months ago following trauma to the chest during play at school. After conducting laboratory tests and chest X-ray, bilateral chylothorax was diagnosed for the patient and then bilateral chest tube was placed and thoracic duct was blocked. The patient was hospitalized for 4 days in intensive care unit and then transferred to department of Thoracic with good general condition. Finally, after several days of hospitalization, the patient was discharged with normal general condition.

Conclusion: Timely diagnosis and treatment of chylothorax have a major role in saving patient's life and can prevent complications due to lung problems.

Key words: Chylothorax, Trauma, Case report

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