

Clinical Image

Open Access, Volume 4

Bald vulture appearance

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Received: Apr 08, 2023

Accepted: Jun 14, 2023

Published: Jun 21, 2023

Archived: www.jcimcr.org

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DOI: www.doi.org/10.52768/2766-7820/2466

Clinical image description

Mr. X, a 32 year old man (Figure 1) presented in clinic with breathlessness since 1 year despite being on a dual agent inhaler therapy and Ms. Y, a 68 year old lady (Figure 2) was received in emergency in a state of respiratory failure and was intubated. Both patients had a history of pulmonary tuberculosis in past. Spirometric records of Mr. X and Ms. Y showed severe (FEV1 of 32%) and very severe (FEV1 of 28%) obstruction, respectively. Chest radiographs of both patients showed distorted trachea (1), bilateral fibrotic upper lobes (2), pulled up hila (3) and compensatory hyperinflation of lower lobes (4), giving it a characteristic bald vulture appearance (hyperinflated lungs mimicking the wings and pulled trachea as bald neck). Both were diagnosed as Post TB Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (TOPD). The significance of such a radiograph could mean a serious ventilatory defect requiring urgent physician attention and closer follow ups.

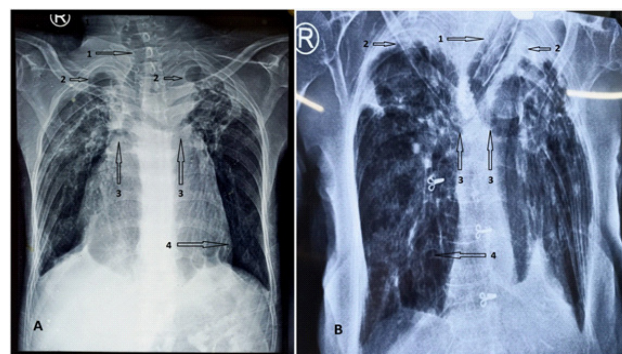


Figure 1: Bald vulture appearance labelled

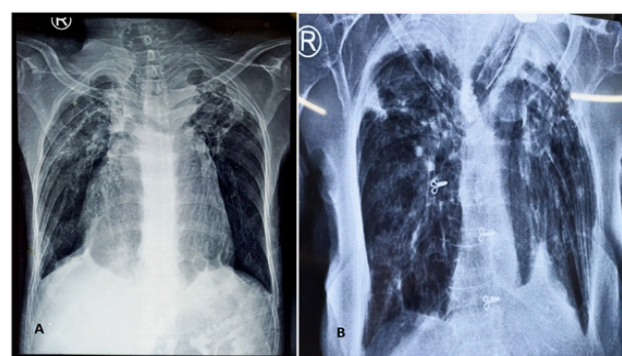


Figure 2: Bald vulture appearance.