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Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Pneumothorax and mediastinal emphysema due to an air leak from a bulla in an azygos lobe[☆]

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An 18-year-old female presented with persistent right pneumothorax. VATS showed what seemed to be a large bulla (Fig. 1(a)). Accurate exploration revealed an azygos

lobe. The suspected bulla was rather the mediastinal pleura blown-up by an air leak from a bulla of the azygos lobe (Fig. 1(b)).

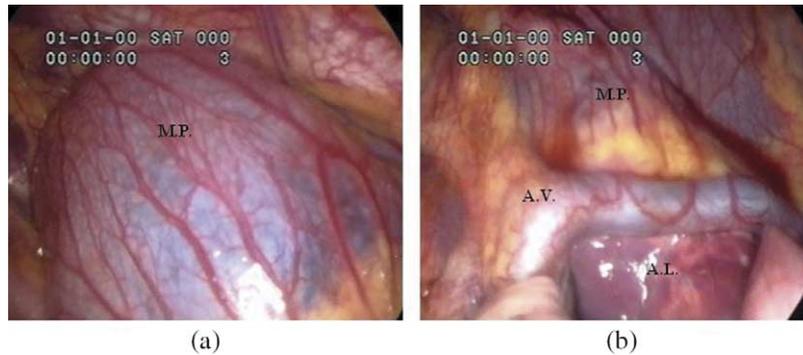


Fig. 1. (a) Blown-up mediastinal pleura mimicking a large bulla. The pneumomediastinum was not visible in the pre-operative chest X-ray. (b) Azygos lobe. The mediastinal pleura is deflated. AV, azygos vein; MP, mediastinal pleura; AL, azygos lobe.

[☆] The patient was operated at the Section of General Thoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Catania, Catania, Italy.

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