

Foreign Body Aspiration Presenting as Life-Threatening Bronchial Asthma

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A two-year-old male, a known case of bronchial asthma was admitted as a case of exacerbation of asthma. He did not improve with standard treatment and required invasive ventilator support twice during his admission. The chest x-rays only showed hyperinflation but CT scan of the thorax revealed a foreign body (a piece of Betel nut) lodged in the right main bronchus. It was removed under bronchoscopic guidance.

A foreign body may not be radio-opaque and therefore may not be visible in chest x-ray. The possibility of foreign body aspiration should always be considered in children presenting with an exacerbation of bronchial asthma.

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