

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CHEST X-RAY IN CHINESE MEDICINE? A CASE REPORT OF SPONTANEOUS PNEUMOTHORAX

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BACKGROUND/AIMS: Spontaneous pneumothorax is defined as pneumothorax occurring without preceding trauma and can be subclassified as primary or secondary. A primary spontaneous pneumothorax occurs in a healthy person without underlying lung disease, most commonly occurs between 20 and 40 years of age. It can cause sudden, sharp chest pain and dyspnea. Treatment depends on size, and observation is sufficient if the lesion is small.

REPORT: A 25-year-old previously healthy male with a tall, thin body habitus and a past history of smoking for 5 years began to have sudden onset of chest pain on the left side and dyspnea after encouraged working for 1 day. He went for Chinese massage treatment at our hospital, where the initial impression was myofascial pain. Chinese massage over the supra- and infra-scapular regions was performed but little improvement was noted, and the chest X-ray films revealed a small pneumothorax at the left upper lung field. Oral Chinese medicines with bu-zhong-yi-qi-tang were prescribed and the pneumothorax healed well 7 days later.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS: Spontaneous pneumothorax should be considered in a patient with a tall, thin body structure and smoking history, and chest X-ray could be an effective tool for screening lung disease and preventing misdiagnosis in the Chinese medical field.

Key words: Chinese medical field, Spontaneous pneumothorax, Chest pain, Chest X-ray.