

## IMAGES IN PAEDIATRICS

## Intratracheal infantile haemangioma: an infrequent cause of lower airway obstruction in early infancy



### Hemangioma infantil intratraqueal: obstrucción de la vía aérea inferior en la infancia

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An 11-month-old girl presented with recurrent bronchitis. A chest radiograph evinced a lesion at the tracheal level. Computed tomography (CT) scan showed a supracarinal nodular enhancing-lesion that obstructed 50% of the tracheal lumen (Fig. 1). Based on radiological findings, the diagnostic suspicion of airway infantile haemangioma (AIH) was established and treatment with oral propranolol was initiated. A fibrobronchoscopy performed at 24h detected features compatible with AIH (Fig. 2A). Follow-up assessments by means of fibrobronchoscopy at 1 and 5 months showed a marked reduction in the size of the lesion (Fig. 2B). In infants presenting with lower airway obstruction, the differential diagnosis must include AIH. While benign, this disease can be life-threatening.<sup>1</sup> Early diagnosis and treatment are essential. When AIH is strongly suspected, empiric treatment with propranolol should be initiated even if the diagnosis has yet to be confirmed.<sup>2</sup> Regarding diagnosis,

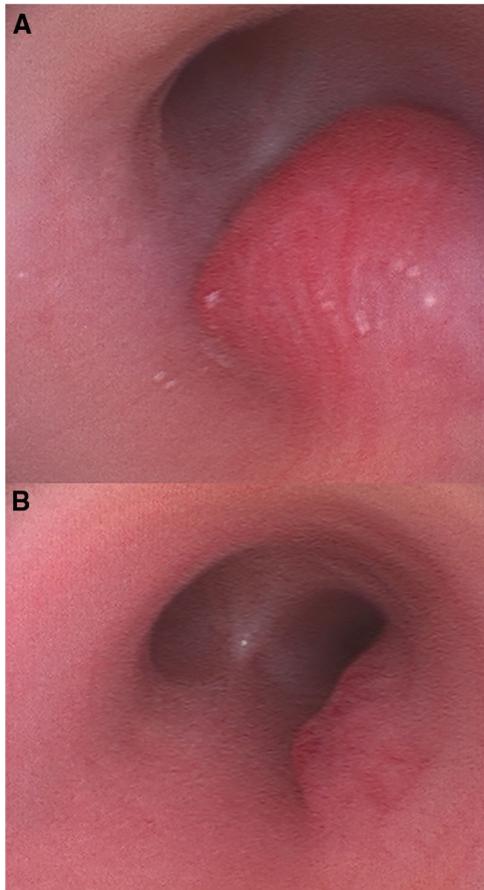


**Figure 1** Computed tomography. Near complete obstruction of the tracheal lumen by a solid enhancing lesion (white arrow). To facilitate the interpretation of the image, the volume that corresponds to the AIH has been highlighted in red. Pattern of consolidation-atelectasis in most of the right upper lobe with air bronchogram causing mild ipsilateral tracheal displacement.

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**Figure 2** Bronchoscopy images of the lesion. A: at diagnosis. B: after 5 months of treatment with oral propranolol. Note the marked decrease in size of the lesion.

some authors have described the use of CT.<sup>3</sup> However, the use of fibrobronchoscopy avoids radiation exposure. Propranolol is the first-line treatment for AIH and is associated with a lower rate of complications compared to surgery.<sup>1</sup>

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