

IMAGES IN PAEDIATRICS

A rare chest wall deformity: Intrathoracic rib

Una malformación inusual de la caja torácica: costilla intratorácica

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A girl aged 5 years presented with a cough and difficulty breathing of one week's duration. She had no known disease, and the physical examination was unremarkable. The posterior-anterior chest radiograph showed an abnormally oriented rib in the upper right side of the chest (Fig. 1). The patient underwent a low-dose CT scan of the chest without contrast for further evaluation. The CT scan revealed

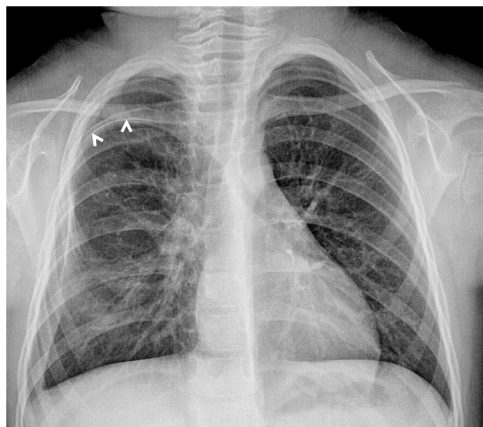


Figure 1 Anterior–posterior chest radiograph showing an abnormally oriented rib in the right side (arrowheads).

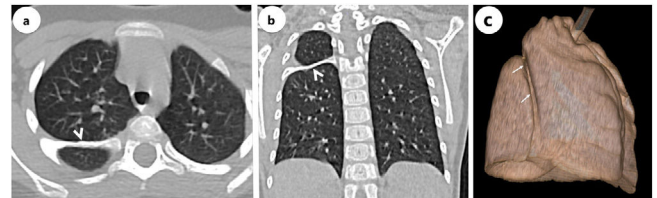


Figure 2 (a) Axial and (b) coronal chest CT images evincing the intrathoracic rib (arrowheads). (c) Three-dimensional volume reconstruction chest CT image of the right lung demonstrates the parenchymal indentation of the intrathoracic rib (arrows).

the presence of a bifid intrathoracic rib protruding into the lung parenchyma (Fig. 2, Movie). Since the patient's symptoms were mild, conservative treatment was initiated and a follow-up visit scheduled.

An intrathoracic rib, also known as a thoracic rib or slipping rib syndrome, is an extremely rare anomaly of the chest wall in which a normal, supernumerary or bifid rib is located within the chest cavity.¹ The clinical manifestations of intrathoracic rib can include sharp or dull pain, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath and a palpable lump or bulge near the involved rib.¹ The management of this type of malformation typically involves a combination of conservative measures and, in severe cases, surgical intervention.² A chest CT scan allows precise visualization of the tubular

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shape and curvature of the intrathoracic rib and can be used to guide surgery.^{1,2}

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary material related to this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anpede.2023.08.004>.

References

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