Spontaneous pneumothorax in a patient with buffalo chest

Jong Bum Kwon¹, Seok-Whan Moon² and Chan Beom Park³,*

¹ Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Daejeon St Mary’s Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Republic of Korea
² Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, St Paul’s Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Republic of Korea
³ Corresponding author. Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, St Paul’s Hospital, 620-56, Jeonnong-dong, Dongdaemoon-gu, Seoul 130-709, Republic of Korea. Tel: +82-2-9582477; fax: +82-2-9604568; e-mail: drcsss23@daum.net; drcsss23@catholic.ac.kr (C.B. Park).

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A 42-year old male presented with chest pain. Left pneumonectomy had been performed 15 years before for tuberculosis. A chest X-ray showed small left-sided pneumothorax (Fig. 1). A chest computed tomography revealed herniation of the right lung into the contralateral side (‘buffalo chest’) and a bilateral pneumothorax (Fig. 2). With oxygen supplement, chest pain was relieved and the pneumothorax disappeared.

Figure 1: Chest X-ray showing left-sided pneumothorax and air–fluid level in right thorax.

Figure 2: (a) Chest computed tomography (CT) scan showing a bilateral pneumothorax. (b) Coronal CT image showing herniation of the right lung into the left hemithorax.