The Snoopy sign

Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos*, James Barnard and Francis Wells

Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Transplantation, Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, UK

* Corresponding author. Cardiothoracic Surgery and Transplantation, Papworth Hospital, Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire, Cambridge CB23 3RE, UK.
Tel: +44-7752194604; email: panagiotopnikos@yahoo.gr (N. Panagiotopoulos).

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Imaging revealed marked levoposition of cardiac silhouette without tracheal deviation, ill definition of the right heart border and flattening with elongation of the left heart border, the ‘Snoopy Sign’, one of the features of congenital complete absence of the pericardium (Figure 1A, C and D), and lung tissue interposition between the ascending aorta and the pulmonary trunk (Figure 1B).

Figure 1: Congenital complete absence of the pericardium. (A) Characteristic posteroanterior radiograph of the patient with congenital complete absence of the pericardium. Note the marked levoposition of the cardiac silhouette, loss of right heart border, prominent main pulmonary artery, flattening and elongation of the left heart border (snoopy sign) and lung tissue interposing between the main pulmonary artery and the aorta (arrow). (B) Chest CT mediastinal setting shows characteristic interposition of lung tissue (arrow) between the aorta (AO) and the pulmonary artery (PA). (C) Chest CT coronal setting shows flattening and elongation of the left heart border (snoopy sign). (D) Chest CT axial setting showing leftward and posterior rotation of the heart and the absence of the pericardial layer over the posterior portion of the heart.