Reviewer’s report

Title: Recurrent spontaneous pneumothoraces and vaping in an 18-year-old male: a case report and review of the literature

Version: 0 Date: 30 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Konstantinos Zorbas

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?
   Yes

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.
   Comments: No

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?
   Yes

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify.
   a. The relevant patient information, including:
      - De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity) Yes
      - Main symptoms of the patient Yes
      - Medical, family and psychosocial history Yes
      - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes Yes

   b. The relevant physical examination findings Yes
c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider including time relevant to initial presentation, i.e. initial presentation at T = 0, follow up at T = 1 month. Yes

d. Diagnostic assessments, including: Yes
   - Diagnostic methods
   - Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural)
   - Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable

e. Types and mechanism of intervention  Yes

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits Yes

Comments:

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?

Comments: no

6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below.

Yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments: Yes

8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?

Comments: No
9. Additional comments for the author(s)? This case report cannot associate the vaping with spontaneous pneumothorax since it is only a case report. In my opinion it would be scientifically wrong to associate vaping with spontaneous pneumothorax. As the author said the spontaneous pneumothorax is associated with the mechanic forces of inhalation. Especially in this case which showed apical lung blebs. The author should perform a retrospective or prospective analysis of multiple patients with three cohorts: non-smokers, smokers and patients using electronic cigarettes in order to be able to evaluate any possible association of vaping with spontaneous pneumothorax.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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No