

A 26-Year-Old Woman With a Small Right Lung and a Right-Sided Heart



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A 26-year-old woman presented with abnormal findings on a chest radiograph. She had no significant history other than a fever 4 months prior to presentation that had resolved without a definite cause identified. She denied cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, history of smoking, environmental exposures, or prior pregnancies. She remained physically active.

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Physical Examination

The patient's vital signs were as follows: blood pressure, 110/80 mm Hg; pulse rate, 70 beats/min; respiration, 16 breaths/min; and oxygen saturation level, 98% on ambient air. Results of her lung examination were normal and clear to auscultation bilaterally. Cardiac examination revealed point of maximal impulse 1 cm to the right of the lower sternal border; normal heart sounds; no murmurs; and no jugular venous distension. There was no cyanosis or edema in her extremities.

Diagnostic Studies

A chest radiograph revealed dextrorotation of the heart with decreased right lung volume (Fig 1). A CT scan of the chest is shown in Figure 2. An echocardiogram revealed no pulmonary hypertension, valvular anomalies, septal defects, or congenital heart disease.

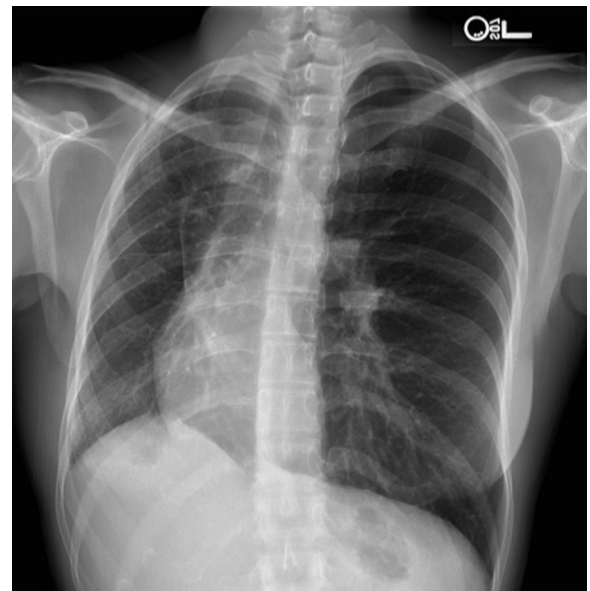


Figure 1 – Chest radiograph showing dextrorotation of the heart with decreased right lung volume.

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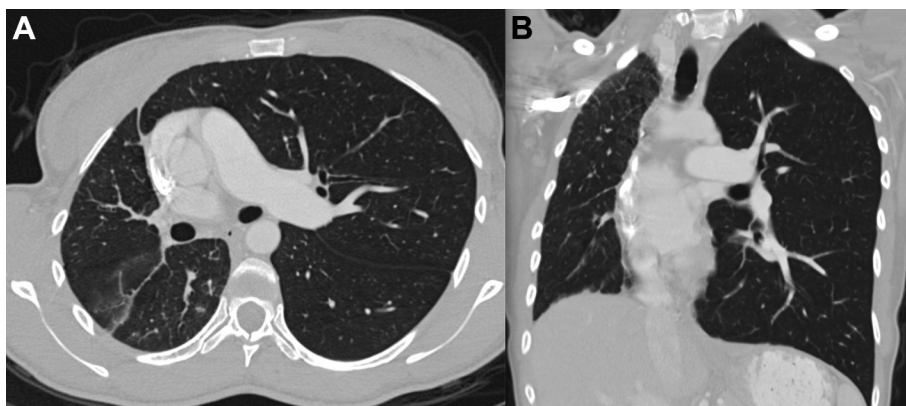


Figure 2 – CT scan of the chest. A, Transverse thoracic plane at the level of the sternal angle. B, Coronal thoracic plane.

What is the diagnosis?

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