

IMAGING IN INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE



Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and intrathoracic renal ectopy

Jan Waskowski¹, Daniel Ott² and Joerg C. Schefold^{1*}

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An elderly woman was admitted to our ICU following 25 min of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). No mechanical CPR devices were used. A contrast-enhanced

post-resuscitation CT-scan revealed intrathoracic renal ectopy (IRE) (Fig. 1). IRE is a rare finding and is considered to account for only a minority of ectopic kidneys. It

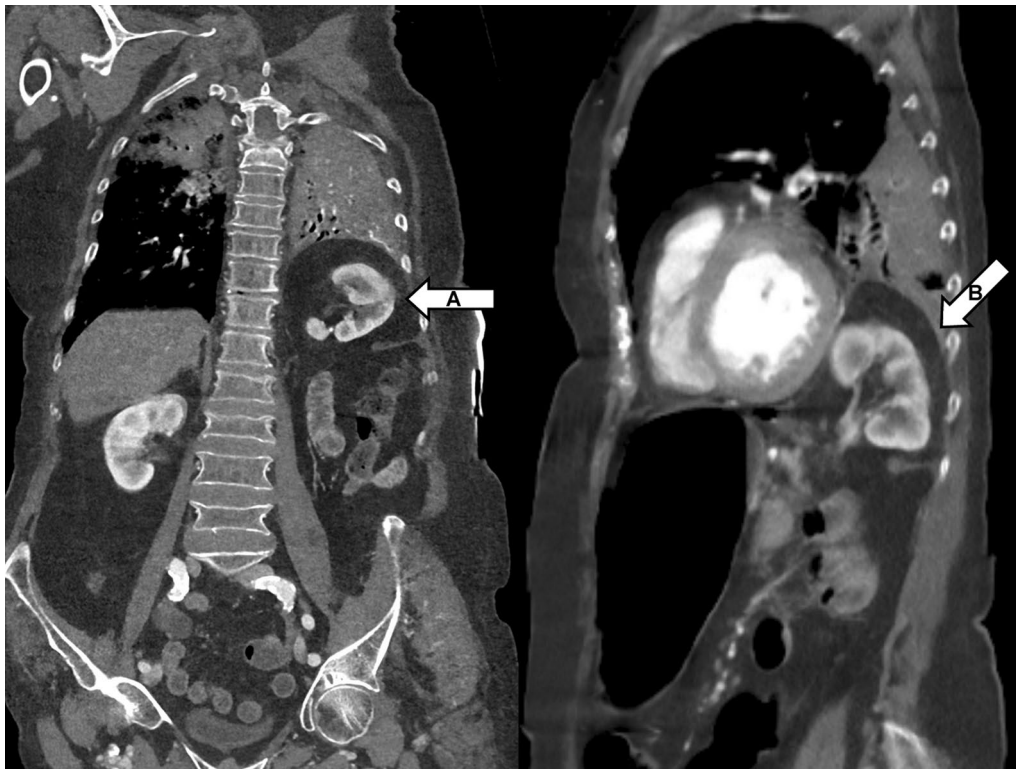


Fig. 1 Contrast-enhanced CT-scan demonstrating left-sided retrocardial IRE with adjacent renal capsule tissue, substantial aspiration, and compression atelectasis (A: frontal plane, B: sagittal plane)

*Correspondence: joerg.schefold@insel.ch

¹ Department of Intensive Care Medicine, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, University of Bern, 3010 Bern, Switzerland

Full author information is available at the end of the article

predominantly presents in males within the left hemithorax. Although IRE patients are mostly asymptomatic, respiratory complications (e.g. in children after anesthesia) were reported. Our CT scan demonstrates that IRE patients are at increased risk for organ injury in cases of CPR being performed. The restrictive nature of the condition may further promote pulmonary complications in critical illness.

Author details

¹ Department of Intensive Care Medicine, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, University of Bern, 3010 Bern, Switzerland. ² Department of Diagnostic, Interventional and Pediatric Radiology, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland.

Compliance with ethical standards**Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare no competing interests.