
IMAGES

Multifocal pneumonia: acute Q fever

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An 18 year-old man visited the emergency department with flu-like symptoms including high fever, headache and nonspecific myalgia. Chest x-ray showed multiple round opacities (Figure 1). On questioning, the patient reported having worked on a sheep farm about 15 days before.

Pneumonic multiple round opacities are unusual. Tricuspid endocarditis, usually associated with injection drug users, and acute Q fever are infectious entities that can manifest this radiographic pattern. Q fever is a zoonosis

caused by *Coxiella burnetii* and whose reservoirs are mainly cattle, goats and sheep. Transmission is through direct contact with the animals or their products or by inhalation. The disease is considered highly contagious, which explains why several pneumonic foci may appear at the same time. Clinical manifestations vary from self-limiting flu-like symptoms to pneumonia or hepatitis. Tetracyclines are the treatment of choice, and levofloxacin is an effective alternative.

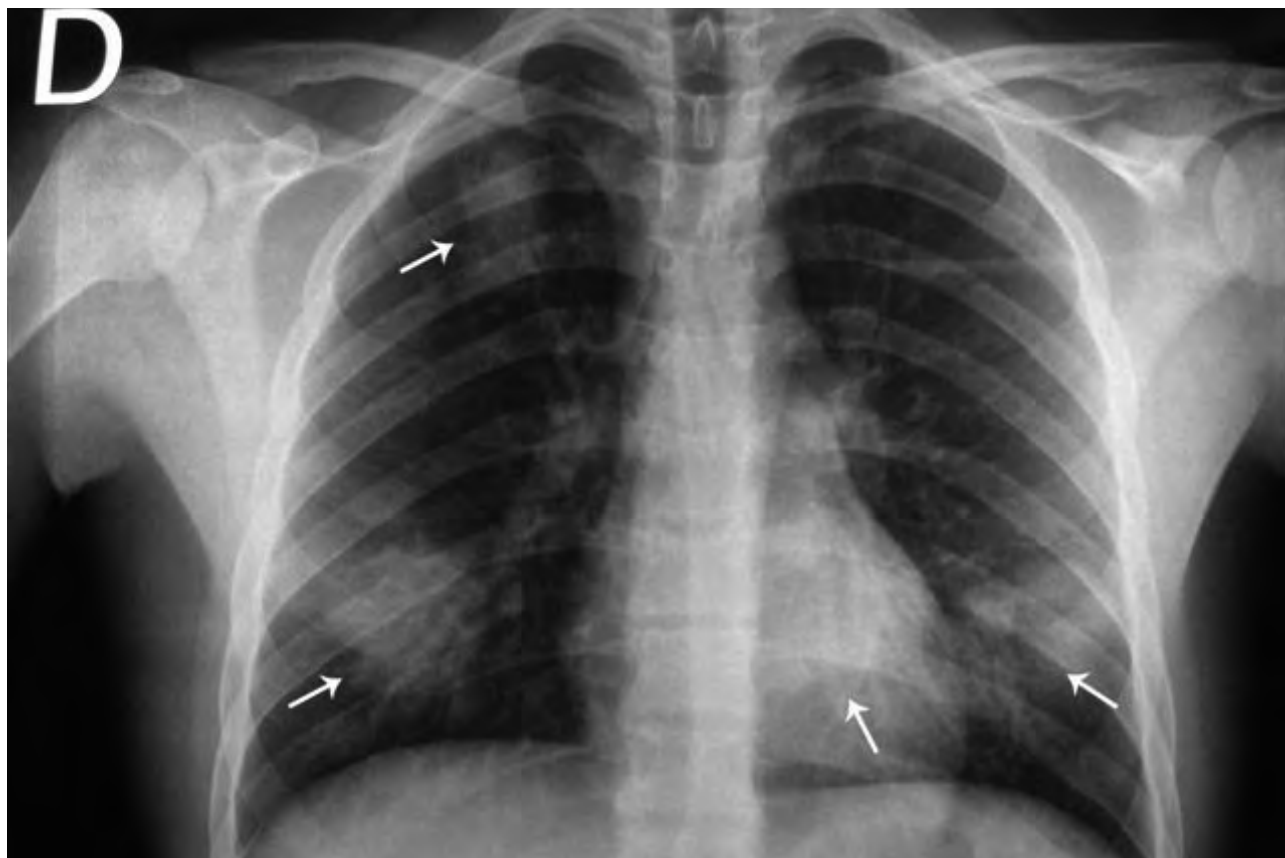


Figure 1. Chest x-ray showing pneumonia with multifocal round opacities (arrows).

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