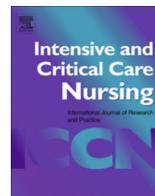




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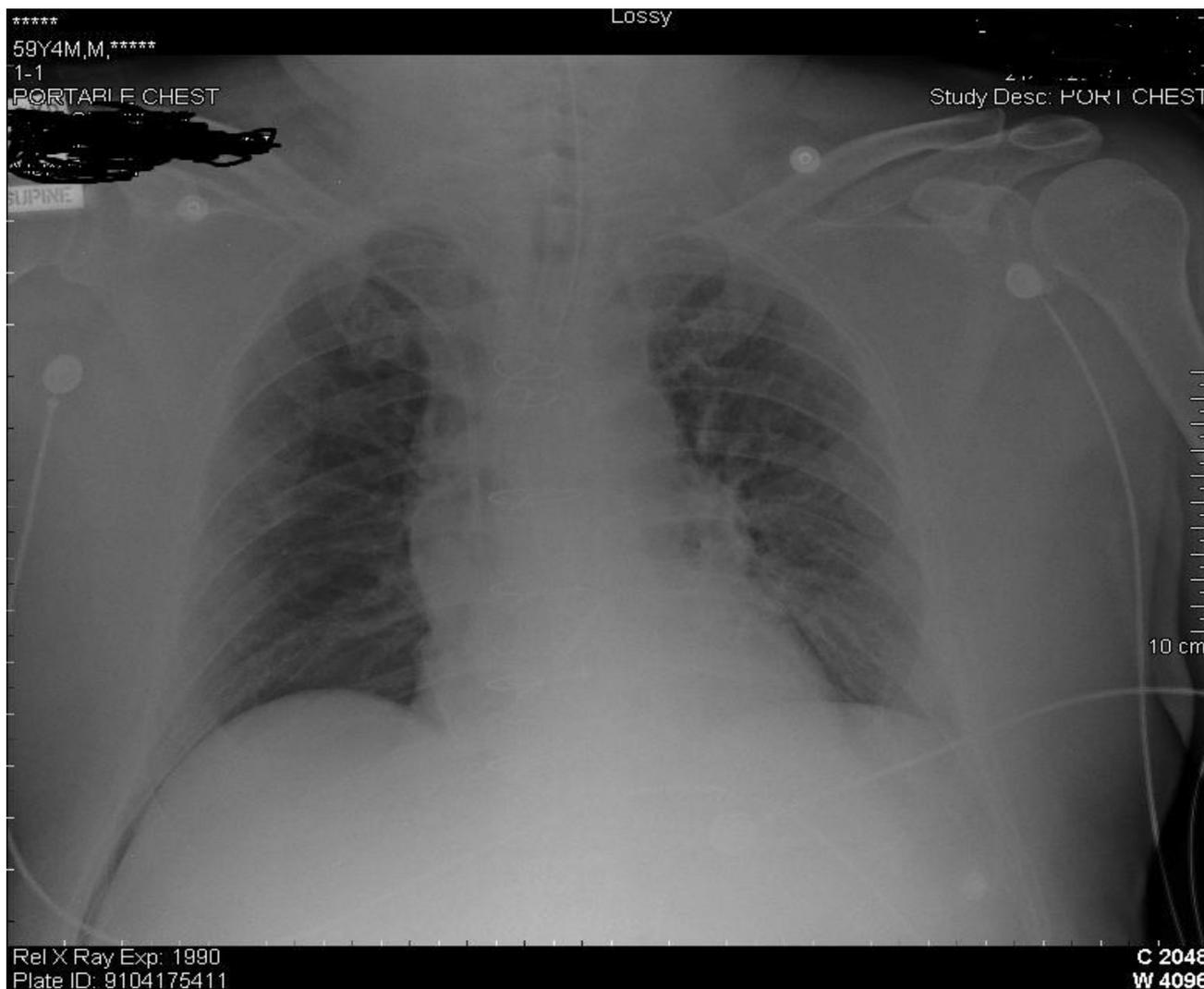


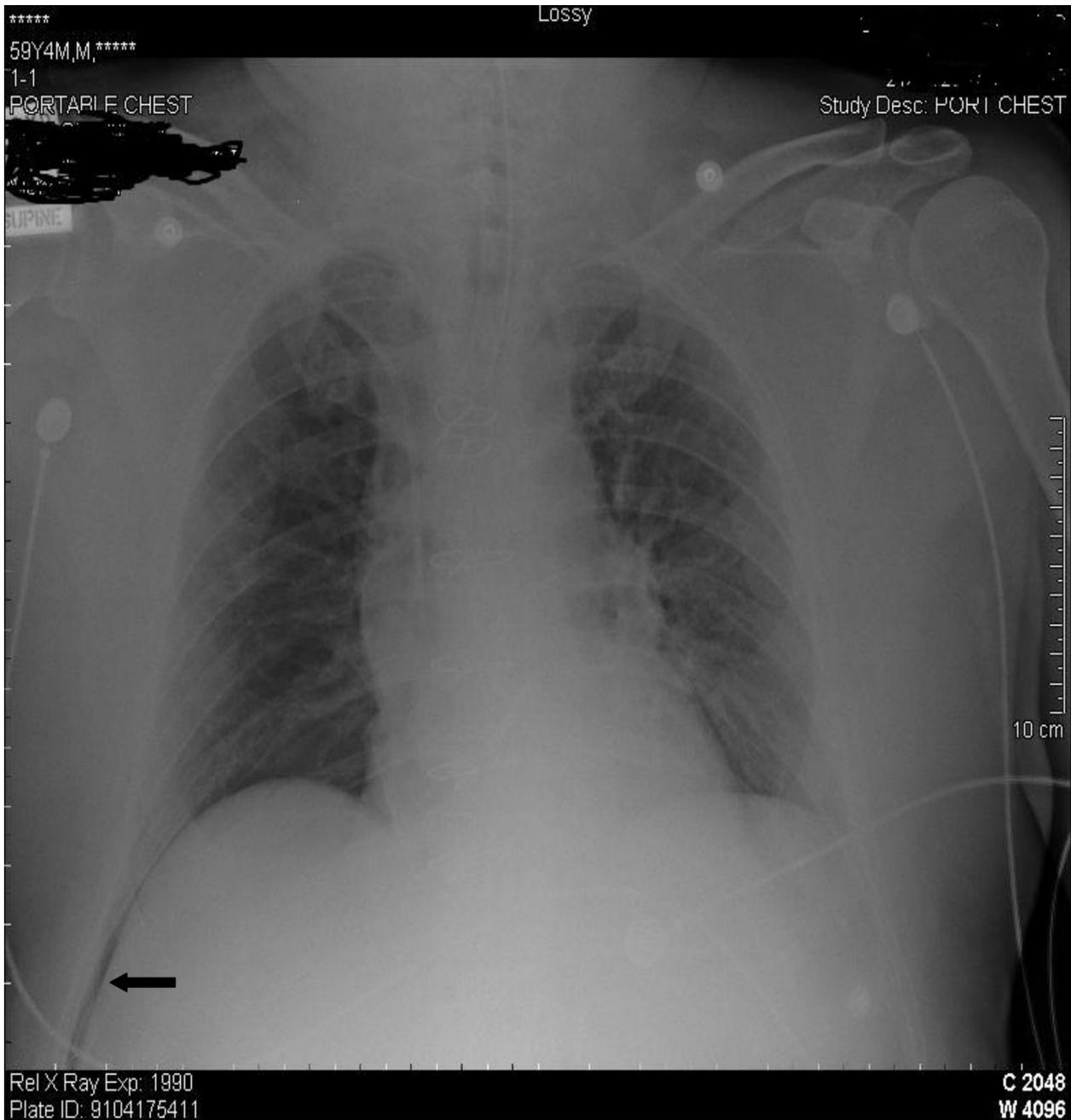
Chest X-ray quiz

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Question

This is an anterior-posterior (supine) chest X-ray of a 65-year-old man in the Intensive Care Unit. The chest X-ray was taken following placement of an endotracheal tube (ETT) and central venous catheter (CVC). Are you happy with the location of the ETT and CVC? What sign is present to indicate a pneumothorax?





Answer and discussion

You would be happy with:

- i) the location of the ETT, which is approximately 4 cms clear of the carina
- ii) the location of the CVC, which has entered the right subclavian and is positioned at the cavoatrial junction i.e. about 2 vertebral bodies below the carina

Note on the right side a very deep sulcus sign (black arrowed) which in a patient positioned supine leads to suspicion of a pneumothorax. It is always a good idea to look carefully for a pneumothorax when the central line is inserted via a subclavian vein.

On a supine chest film the deep sulcus sign may be the only suggestion of a pneumothorax. Why? Because air collects basally within the non-dependent portions of the pleural space, as opposed to apically when the patient is upright [1].

Reference

<https://radiopaedia.org/articles/deep-sulcus-sign> accessed 26/8/18.