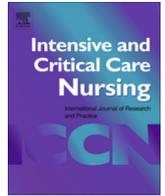




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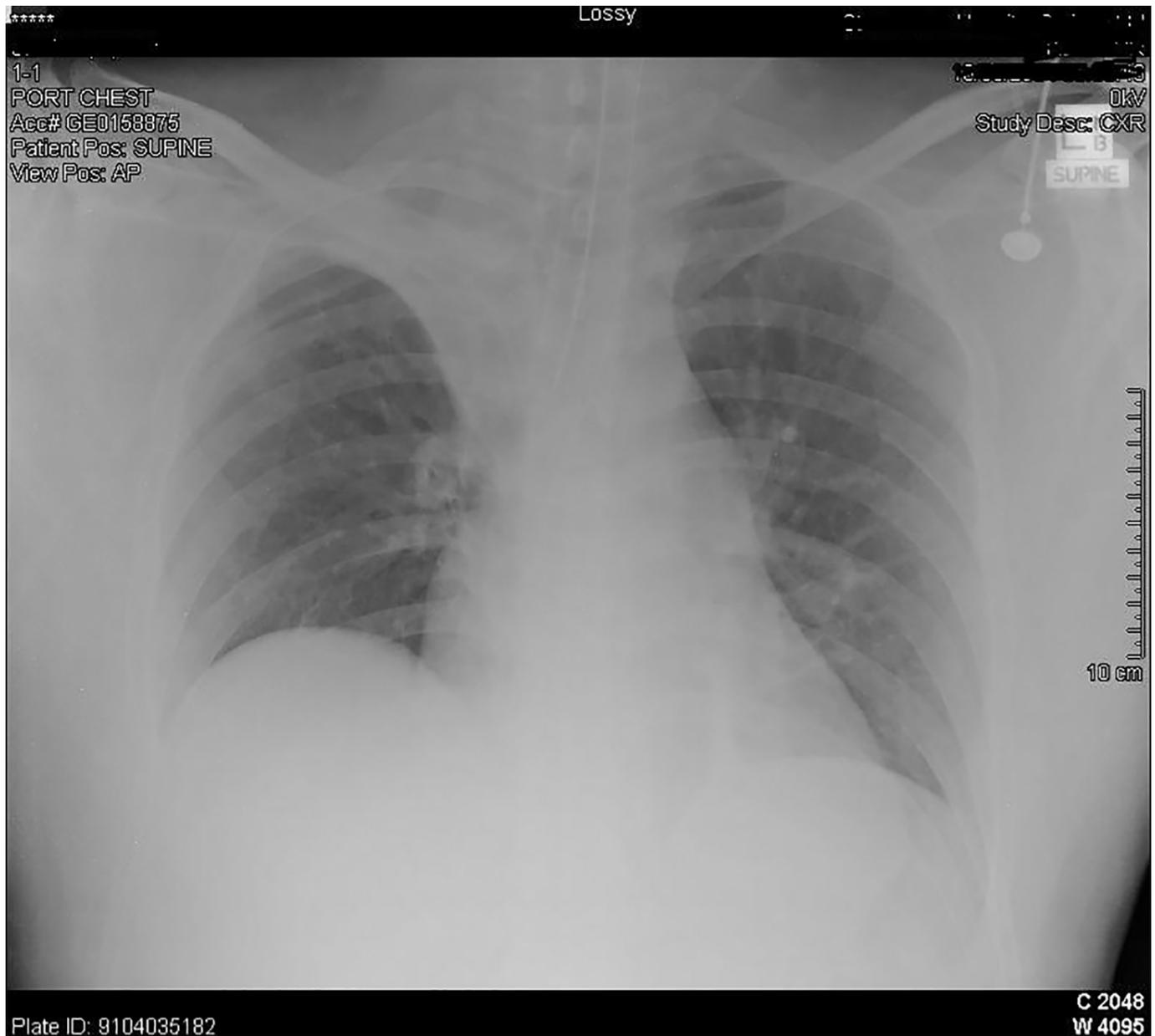


Chest X-ray quiz

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Question

This is an anterior-to-posterior (AP) supine chest X-ray of a 46-year-old man in respiratory distress. He is now in ICU and intubated. Are you happy with the location of the endotracheal tube (ETT)? Describe the appearance of his chest X-ray.



Answer and discussion

You would not be happy with the location of the ETT, as it is into the right main bronchus (arrowed). It should be adjusted to be 2–5 cm from the carina. There is complete collapse of the right upper lobe (RUL). Note the resultant elevation of the right horizontal fissure and right hemidiaphragm. Review previous chest X-ray to see if the RUL atelectasis was present, prior to the patient being intubated, or has it occurred following intubation? If so, the tube could be pressing on the RUL bronchus causing the atelectasis. Otherwise seek cause of the RUL atelectasis: possibly endobronchial obstruction or pneumonia.

