

Anesthetic Management Of An Infant With A Giant Anterior Mediastinal Mass

LL Stice, A Sharma

New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY

Mediastinal masses are the most common thoracic masses in children.^{1,2} Perioperative complications are directly related to the size and location of the mass. Larger masses can compress the major vessels in the thorax, and also can cause compression of the heart and airway.^{3,4} Respiratory collapse is a well-recognized complication of general anesthesia in patients with anterior mediastinal masses. Patients with these masses are at significant risk for cardiopulmonary complications when general anesthesia is administered.

We present a case of 4-month-old infant who presented with progressive tachypnea and cough. On radiological evaluation the patient was found to have a giant anterior mediastinal mass causing compression of the pulmonary arteries and moderate compression of the bronchi. The patient was then scheduled for thoracotomy and excision of mass under general anesthesia. In this presentation we will discuss the preoperative preparation and the concerns associated with the surgery in an infant with giant anterior mediastinal mass. We will also describe the perioperative anesthetic management of this patient.

References:

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4. Ricketts RR, *Semin Pediatr Surg*. 2001