An approach to non-radiodense aspirated foreign bodies in the paediatric patient

Introduction: Foreign body aspiration is a common and often serious problem in paediatric patients. Approximately 80% of paediatric foreign body aspiration episodes occur in children younger than 3 years. Almost 90% of aspirated foreign bodies are non-radiodense and therefore not seen on radiographs. Clinical presentation may be subtle and can become a diagnostic dilemma, particularly if there is no witnessed aspiration.

Aim: An educational poster on a radiological approach to aspirated non-radiodense foreign bodies.

Methods: We present serial chest radiographs of bronchoscopically confirmed non-radiodense foreign bodies.

Conclusion: Knowledge about the different radiological features suspicious for foreign body aspiration is essential and can guide appropriate intervention including bronchoscopic retrieval, which may prevent permanent pulmonary sequelae.