

Abstract

Pneumothorax is a common complication following trauma. This condition is readily identified during the initial assessment upon arrival to the hospital. Most cases resolved after the insertion of a chest tube. However, several patients will develop persistent pneumothorax despite thoracostomy. The development of this condition may signify significant injuries to the lung parenchyma which poses a challenge in its management. Treatment option varies between expectant, minimally invasive and open thoracotomy. Each method has its advantage. We present a case of a non-resolving pneumothorax following a road traffic accident subsequently requiring a thoracotomy. The pathology, approach and treatment are discussed.