

# Pneumomediastinum in a Covid-19 patient

**Niki Tsolka<sup>2</sup>,**  
**Sotiria Kefala<sup>2</sup>,**  
**Georgia Basioti<sup>2</sup>,**  
**Leonidas Stellas<sup>2</sup>,**  
**George Efremidis<sup>1</sup>,**  
**Katerina Varela<sup>1</sup>,**  
**Theoharis Dimou<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pneumology,  
General Hospital of Patras,

<sup>2</sup>Covid-19 Department, General Hospital  
of Patras

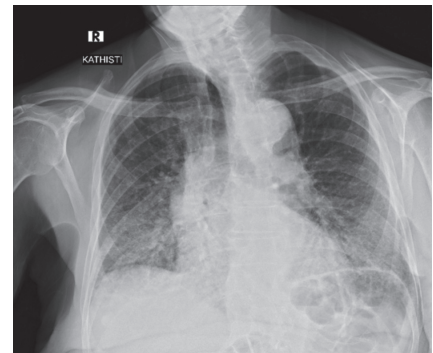
**Key words:**

- Pneumomediastinum
- High Flow NC
- Covid 19

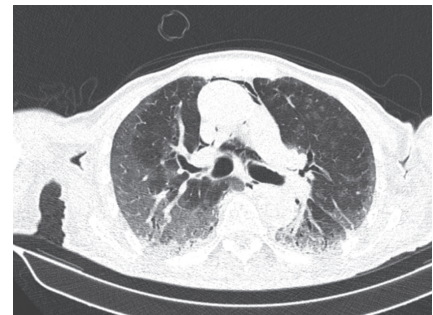
**Correspondence:**

Sotiria Kefala  
Covid 19 Department, General Hospital of Patras,  
37 Kalavriton Street, 26335, Patras, Greece  
E-mail: sotiria\_kefala@yahoo.gr

During the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, it is observed an increased in the number of patients for pneumomediastinum, suggesting that there is an association with either the viral infection, or the Hi flow nasal cannula (HFNC) required to manage these patients. A 78 years old male with a past medical history of diabetes, hypertension and Atrial fibrillation, ex-smoker presented in the emergency room with dyspnea, fatigue and fever (38.3 oC) for over 5 days. His chest radiograph (CXR) on admission demonstrated bilateral mid-zone and basal ground glass opacification typical of moderately severe COVID-19 pneumonia (Figure 1). The PCR test for SARS-Co-V2 turned positive and he was admitted to the COVID-19 department with HFNC oxygenation therapy (FiO<sub>2</sub> 0.5 with 75% Oxygen concentrate). On day 7 after deterioration his dyspnea, he was submitted to emergency CT scan of the chest, confirming the presence of the air in the mediastinum (Figures 2-4). His pneumomediastinum was managed conservatively with oxygen treatment (nasal cannula), monitoring by daily CXRs where gradual improvement was observed. He continued to improve and after 15 days he was eventually considered clinically and discharged without further complications requiring no surgical intervention.



**FIGURE 1.**



**FIGURE 2.**



**FIGURE 3.**



**FIGURE 4.**