

Welsh not so rarebit

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A 69-year-old man was hospitalized with a compound tibial fracture following a fall. During his admission, he developed an episode of acute breathlessness with associated hypoxaemia. A plain chest radiograph displayed right lower lobe consolidation. Computed tomography pulmonary angiography showed no evidence of pulmonary emboli, but demonstrated a 7 mm, soft tissue density mass in the right bronchus intermedius (Figure 1). Fiberoptic bronchoscopy revealed a pea at the right upper lobe orifice (Figure 2), which was wholly removed with operating forceps.

Aspiration pneumonia caused by inhalation of food or other particulate matter is a common and often terminal event in debilitated patients

(Katzenstein, 2006). It can occur in previously healthy individuals, often as a result of altered states of consciousness. Food aspiration is a more common cause of lung infiltrates and radiographic abnormalities than is generally recognized. Radiographically, it may appear as pneumonia (acute or recurrent) or, as in this case, a mass mimicking carcinoma. **BJHM**

Katzenstein AA (2006) *Katzenstein and Askin's Surgical Pathology of Non-neoplastic Lung Disease*. WB Saunders Co, Philadelphia

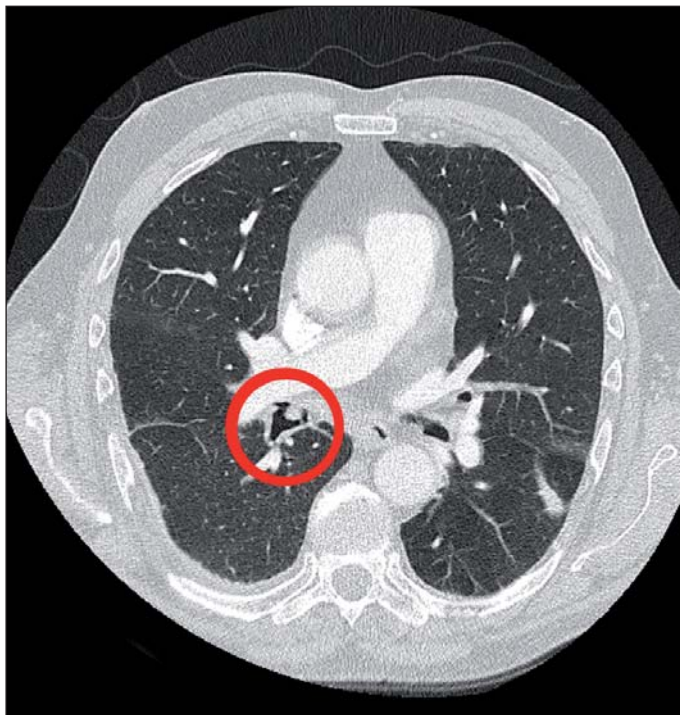


Figure 1. Computed tomography pulmonary angiography showing a soft tissue density mass in the right bronchus intermedius (ringed).

Figure 2. Image from bronchoscopy showing a pea

