

ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME-THE UNKNOWN KILLER

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is the sudden, often fatal, acute process by which there is a moderate to severe loss of lung function. This occurs following another acute medical condition, such as pneumonia, sepsis, trauma, or any number of other precipitating causes. Once ARDS occurs, the other medical condition is often minor in comparison. The basic pathophysiology is that of acute lung injury. There are approximately 150,000 cases of ARDS in the United States each year. An estimated 75,000 of those people die. Currently, ARDS cannot be prevented.

HISTORY OF THE ARDS FOUNDATION:

The ARDS Foundation was incorporated in December 2000, and was created as a result of a need that exists within the community that lacks sufficient information and education geared towards support for family and friends who often endure the lengthy hospitalization of loved ones that Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) often require. Foundation's reach extends throughout the United States, Canada, and other parts of the world.

RADIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS IN ARDS

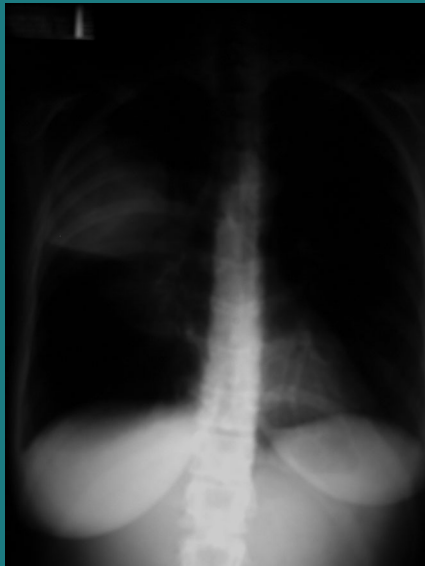
These x-rays (radiographs) demonstrate the rapidity of ARDS and the need to start ventilatory support.

Case Study: 41 year old Female/Caucasian went to the emergency room for dehydration, cough and fever.

DAY 1-

Findings:

An examination demonstrated a large right upper lobe infiltrate. Mass lesion suspicious for pneumonia or malignancy. The right lower lobe and left lung remain clear. Heart size and pulmonary vasculature are within normal limits. Patient was admitted to the hospital.



The ARDS Foundation

United in Hope

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

HOPE, INFORMATION & SUPPORT
ARDS Foundation serves many people at various stages:

- **SUPPORT** during ARDS crisis with a **BROCHURE**, online or via mail, a support network with **PRAYER CIRCLE**, and **MESSAGE BOARD**.
- **ONLINE NEWSLETTER** includes featured ARDS profile, foundation news, and links to other lung related information.
- **SURVIVOR REGISTRY** to collect data for ARDS researchers who want to locate ARDS survivors for future research projects.
- **ONLINE PETITION** to gather signatures for submission to the United States government to urge additional research for ARDS.
- **FUNDRAISING EVENTS** to raise funds and public awareness for ARDS both locally and nationally.
- **RESOURCES** with an extensive web page of links to ARDS articles.
- **ARDS STORIES**, both of survivors and those who have lost their battle with ARDS, along with contact information, of those who are willing to offer support to others.

DAY 2

There is still a dense infiltrate involving the right upper lobe particularly the anterior and posterior segments with some sparing of the apical segment. In the interval, however, there has been development of a parenchymal infiltrate at the right base most likely involving right middle and lower lobes with evidence of bilateral pleural effusions.



DAY 3

There is a worsening right lung opacity consistent with right upper lobe mass with increasing effusions and basilar infiltrates. The left lung showed new multifocal infiltrates and increasing effusion as well.

An endotracheal tube is present with the tip well above the carina. A nasogastric tube is seen with the tip in the stomach.



VISION

Have the medical, emotional and intellectual support necessary to fight and win against acute respiratory distress syndrome, ARDS.

MISSION

The ARDS Foundation is a not for profit organization comprised of volunteers who have been personally affected by ARDS. We are dedicated to increasing awareness, fostering medical research, and offering a forum where ARDS patients and families around the world can find caring and effective guidance and support.

ARDS FOUNDATION

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