

## CLINICAL IMAGE

### Congenital Intercostal Hernia: A Rare Entity

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A 35-year-old male patient presented to the General Surgery Out Patient Department with a history of swelling on the left lateral chest since birth. The swelling appeared during inspiration and disappeared during expiration. On evaluation, the patient had an intercostal defect in the ninth intercostal space. The swelling was appreciable during deep inspiration and there was a hollow on expiration in the same area. On computed tomography, there was a defect in the ninth intercostal space and the content of a hernia was pleura and lung tissue.

On review of the literature, it was found that an intercostal hernia is a rare entity and trauma is the most common etiology. Trauma can be external (blunt/ penetrating) or internal (raised intra-abdominal pressure due to any cause). In our case, traumatic herniation is ruled out as there is no history of any external injury to the chest wall or any history of a chronic cough, chronic constipation or weight lifting. So a diagnosis of congenital intercostal hernia was made in this case, which is a rare entity.



Figure 1: Intercostal defect visible on deep expiration



Figure 2: Intercostal swelling visible on deep inspiration

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