



Editor's Column

Johnny Yick-Chun CHAN 陳亦俊

Department of Paediatrics, Kwong Wah Hospital, Hong Kong

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening condition with generalized or systemic hypersensitivity reaction. It is characterized by rapidly developing airway, breathing or circulatory problems, commonly associated with skin or mucosal changes. Food allergy is the leading cause for anaphylaxis-associated hospitalizations in Hong Kong. Dr KY Lai reported two scenarios where anaphylaxis could be encountered in a paediatric intensive care unit (PICU): a child who was admitted for intensive care after anaphylaxis; and another child who developed anaphylaxis related to therapy received in the PICU.

On the other hand, Dr CP Wong reported an interesting case of severe croup requiring emergency tracheostomy complicated by a massive pneumomediastinum and tension pneumothorax. The importance of leaving tracheostomy open in those with cough to avoid pneumomediastinum was highlighted. Suction over the tracheostomy site was suggested to be a potential method to hasten the recovery of pneumomediastinum associated with surgical emphysema with an open stoma.

Do take the challenge with the X-ray quiz by Dr JW Cheng!