PNEUMOMEDIASTINUM AFTER DENTAL TREATMENT

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Aim of the Study: Pneumomediastinum is defined as the presence of air in mediastinum. Commonly it is observed after trauma, rarely it can be also determined after dental treatment. This study aimed to present a patient with pneumomediastinum after the root canal treatment.

Case Report: 15-year-old male patient who was admitted to the emergency department with neck pain and swelling was evaluated. On physical examination subcutaneous emphysema was observed covering the entire neck. There is no pathological finding in the respiratory and cardiovascular system examinations. It was learned that the root canal treatment for upper front cutter teeth is applied at three days ago when a detailed history was taken from the patient. There was extensive free air in the neck and mediastinal free air as a thin line in patients direct radiography. Computed thorax tomography (CTT) was taken due to this suspicious lesion which was seen in direct radiography. The presence of free air in the mediastinum and mediastinal vessels were seen which were completely surrounded by air on CTT. The patient was hospitalized and was treated conservatively with clinical monitoring. The patient who completely resolved clinically and radiologically, was discharged on the fourth day of hospitalization.

Conclusion: Non-traumatic pneumomediastinum cases are rare. These patients should be followed under close supervision in order to prevent possible complications despite generally recognized as benign outgoing. The diagnosis can be difficult in patients who apply with nonspecific findings. A recent tooth extraction and/or a history of head and neck surgical procedures must be questioned.