

## Answers to Medical Quiz

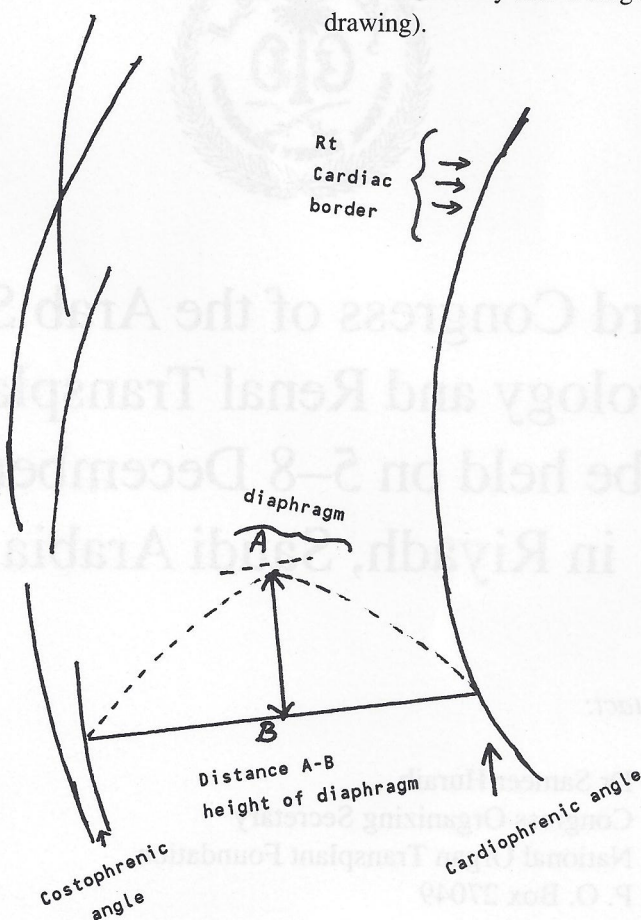
A1. Emphysema is the most important cause of chronic air-flow obstruction. However the magnitude of this problem in Bahrain has not yet been tested. Whether an individual smoker will develop emphysema cannot be predicted.

Of the imaging methods best suited for the diagnosis of emphysema are the standard chest radiograph, CT and nuclear imaging. Only a brief description of the findings on the conventional chest radiograph will be given in this section.

There are three major findings on the chest radiograph:

- 1) Overinflation of the lungs
- 2) Bullous formation
- 3) Arterial deficiency expressed as focal or generalised oligoemia.

The most reliable of these is overinflation; judged by the height and contour of the diaphragm which are better appreciated on the lateral view, and termed "low, flat diaphragm": The right diaphragm below the level of the 7th rib anteriorly and a height of less than 2.6 cm (see drawing).



A2. Normal chest radiograph. The lungs "appear" hyperinflated, but although the diaphragm is relatively low it has retained its normal contour even on the lateral view.

### REFERENCES

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