Negative Pressure Pulmonary Edema Post-Appendicectomy

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Postoperative pulmonary edema is a rare life-threatening complication associated with general anesthesia. Laryngospasms lead to forced inspiration, generating a large amount of negative intrathoracic pressure which leads to negative pressure pulmonary edema (NPPE). It usually develops immediately after extubation.

We report a case of a young fit adult who developed NPPE after an uneventful appendectomy in the postoperative period. This rare condition in the postoperative period is lethal if immediate remedial steps are not taken. The anesthetist and paramedical staff in the recovery room should be well aware of this condition.

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