A 63-year-old man was admitted to intensive care unit due to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). During treatment of lymphoma, he developed bacterial pneumonia. Several days later, severe ARDS was developed; his PaO$_2$/FiO$_2$ (P/F) ratio was about 80. He was intubated and managed with airway pressure release ventilation (APRV) of 27 cmH$_2$O high positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP). CT scan was performed to evaluate lung lesions, 5 days later. In this CT, new pneumatocele and mediastinal emphysema were identified incidentally (Figures 1, 2).

APRV of 27 cmH$_2$O high PEEP was continued for poor oxygenation, even though there were signs indicating barotrauma. Right pneumothorax emerged in the next day (Figure 3) and half-day later, left pneumothorax followed (Figure 4).

Pneumothorax is one of the most concerned complications of APRV. Newly identified pneumatocele or mediastinin emphysema during APRV management may imply to occurrence of pneumothorax. It would be better to decrease airway pressure or patient’s inspiratory pressure in case.
Acknowledgments

Funding: None.

Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form (available at http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jeccm.2020.02.01). The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. Informed consent was obtained from the patient’s family for publication of this case report and any accompanying images.

Open Access Statement: This is an Open Access article distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), which permits the non-commercial replication and distribution of the article with the strict proviso that no changes or edits are made and the original work is properly cited (including links to both the formal publication through the relevant DOI and the license). See: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/.

doi: 10.21037/jeccm.2020.02.01