

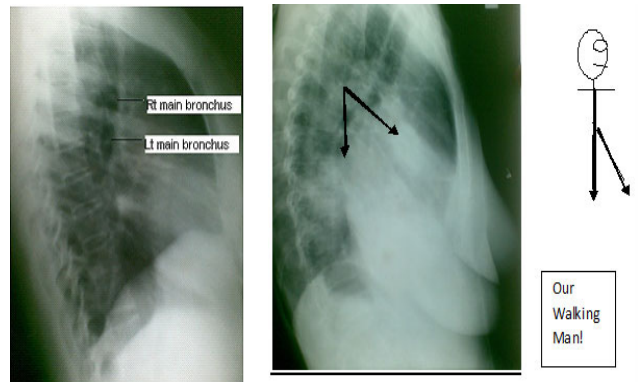
Walking Man with A Large Heart

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Enlargement of left atrium acts as a predictor of cardiovascular outcomes such as atrial fibrillation, stroke, congestive heart failure, cardiovascular death and also reflects diastolic burden [1]. Although echocardiogram acts as an accurate tool to precisely measure left atrial enlargement in most clinical setup, the treating physician in less equipped setup can get loads of information by carefully looking at the black and white image of chest roentgenogram. This cheap imaging tool may show double density sign, enlarged carinal angle [2] and the lateral view may beautifully depict a walking man [Table/Fig-1]. The Chest X Ray can thus act as preliminary tool to give the



[Table/Fig-1]: Walking Man Sign



[Table/Fig-2a-b]: (a) On right lateral Chest X-Ray shows normal position of left and right bronchus. (b) On left lateral Chest X-Ray lateral view shows Lt main bronchus has moved like a walking man's left foot -representing posterio-superior shifting of Lt main bronchus due to Lt atrial enlargement. This is known as "WALKING MAN SIGN" because it looks as if the man has moved his left foot forward!

clue for left atrium enlargement. Posterior displacement of left main bronchus due to left atrial enlargement, gives an image of inverted V, which mimics the legs of a walking man [3]. Our image shows this classical walking man sign in a patient with long standing mitral stenosis [Table/Fig-2a,b].

Chest X-Ray Lateral View showing Walking Man Sign due to left atrial enlargement.

LEARNING POINT OVERVIEW

- Strong evidence suggests that left atrial enlargement has clinical significance in patient with cardiovascular disease.
- Chest X-ray can give clue to the physician about left atrial enlargement.
- Walking man sign is a classical sign of left atrial enlargement seen in chest X ray lateral view.

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