An Ongoing Series

Explore the Space?

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While deployed to a remote FOB, you are the only medically trained provider there. A 50-year-old male contractor comes to you complaining of cough and generalized malaise. He is a smoker and he has been coughing for the past month, but he thought it was "allergies and his usual cough." During the past 2 weeks, his cough has been productive of yellowish sputum, and he has been feeling feverish for 3 days. He also complains of "having pulled a muscle between his ribs from all that coughing." He denies any pertinent past medical or surgical history. He does not take any medications on daily basis. He mentions a history of seasonal allergies.

You note the following vital signs: HR 100 BPM, BP 140/85mmHg, RR 24/min, SpO_2 94% on room air, T 38.2°C (100.7°F). Your patient looks ill. On clinical examination, you note crackles and focal wheezes in the right middle lung field with diminished breath sounds below that area. You decide to obtain an ultrasound of the chest.

1. What is the most likely diagnosis?
2. What complication has this patient developed, as seen in Figure 1?

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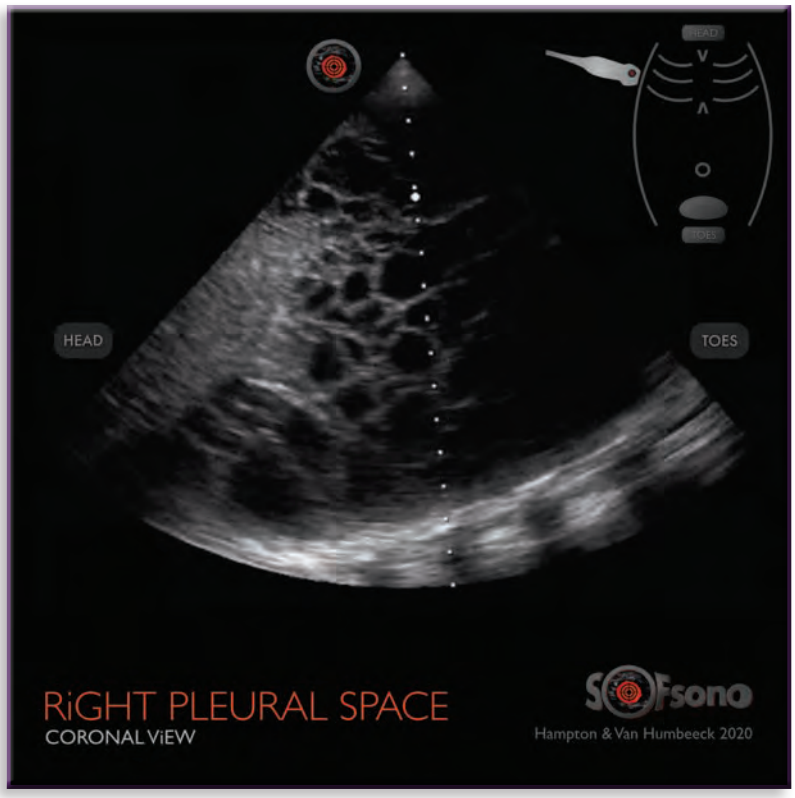
FIGURE 1 *Coronal view of the right pleural space above the diaphragm (not visualized).*



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