

Chest X-ray quiz

Answer and discussion

The pulmonary artery (PA) (Swan Ganz) catheter appears to be twisted in the left pulmonary artery (circled) and would need adjusting. Remember that the right main pulmonary artery is about 1 to 2 cms lower than the left, hence it is more likely that the PA catheter will pass into the right PA rather than the left, i.e. go downhill rather than uphill. The endotracheal tube (ETT) (black arrow) is appropriately positioned, as is the central line (white arrow) and intragastric tube (arrowed). There are right and left sided pleural chest drains in situ (apical and basal). There is slight blunting of the costophrenic angles; otherwise the lung fields are clear (see next issue for follow-up).

For question see page 50 of this issue.

