

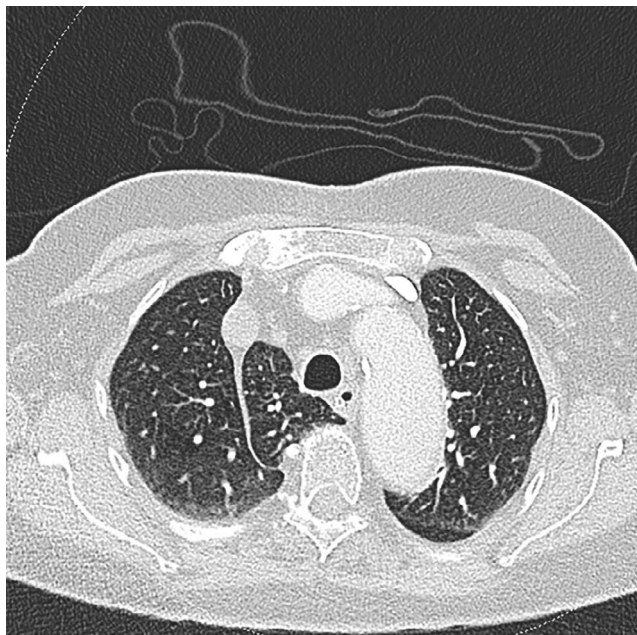
## ANSWER TO PHOTO QUIZ

## An unusual finding on a chest X-ray

**Keywords** - accessory lobe, azygos lobe

### The azygos lobe

The azygos lobe, first described by Heinrich Wrisberg in 1877, is a rare, but normal anatomic variant of the right upper lobe.<sup>[1]</sup> It is found in 1% of anatomic specimens and approximately 0.4% of chest radiographs.<sup>[2,3]</sup> The azygos lobe is not a true accessory lobe as it does not correspond to a distinct anatomical bronchopulmonary segment.<sup>[2,3]</sup> The anomaly is formed by a persisting lateral position of the azygos vein during embryological development, which separates the dome of the pleura into two compartments. As a result, the right upper lobe is split in two, with the medial side presenting the accessory azygos lobe.<sup>[1]</sup> Clinical importance is limited to possible diagnostic difficulties, as the accessory lobe may be mistaken for a bulla, abscess, pulmonary node or lung mass in case of a consolidated azygos lobe.<sup>[3]</sup> Also thoracic surgery may prove more difficult in the presence of an azygos lobe.<sup>[4]</sup> Physicians need to be aware of this normal variant when interpreting a chest X-ray or when preparing for thoracic surgery.



**Figure 2.** Computed tomography of the chest

### References

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