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Acute Pulmonary Complications Following Cosmetic Hyaluronic Acid Dermal Filler Injections

[Respirology Case Reports](#) • Article • 2025 • DOI: 10.1002/rcr2.70227 [Tan, Sin Nee](#)^a; [Huan, Nai-Chien](#)^b ; [Hairudin, Khairee Aqil](#)^c; [Harun, Norra](#)^d; [Sivandan, Shobhana](#)^e; [+4 authors](#)

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Abstract

Hyaluronic acid (HA) injectable dermal filler is widely used in cosmetic procedures, but it rarely leads to pulmonary complications. We present four patients with acute pulmonary complications after HA filler injections: three with organising pneumonia and one with acute pneumonitis. All presented with dyspnoea and cough; three received bilateral breast injections, and one received both breast and buttock injections. All patients received supportive management, including oxygen therapy, corticosteroids, and empirical antibiotics, whereby three responded well, but one succumbed. Clinicians ought to be vigilant of potential life-threatening pulmonary complications related to HA filler injections, as most procedures are performed in unassuming healthcare settings where catastrophic complications are not anticipated. © 2025 The Author(s). Respirology Case Reports published by John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd on behalf of The Asian Pacific Society of Respirology.

Author keywords

cosmetic; hyaluronic acid; pulmonary complications

Indexed keywords

EMTREE drug terms
corticosteroid; cosmetic; cosmetic hyaluronic acid; hyaluronic acid; hydrocortisone; prednisolone; unclassified drug

EMTREE medical terms
acute pulmonary complication; adult; Article; artificial ventilation; breast augmentation; breathing rate; case report; chest tightness; clinical article; community acquired pneumonia; computer assisted tomography; coughing; dermal filler injection; dyspnea; female; fever; follow up; ground glass opacity; histopathology; hospitalization; human; injection; interstitial pneumonia; leukocytosis; lung complication; lung consolidation; lung embolism; neutrophilia; organizing pneumonia; oxygen saturation; oxygen therapy; polymerase chain reaction; respiratory tract infection; thorax radiography

Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers

Unique identifiers assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) to ensure accurate identification and tracking of chemicals across scientific literature.

hyaluronic acid	31799-91-4, 9004-61-9, 9067-32-7
hydrocortisone	50-23-7
prednisolone	50-24-8

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