Flash Pulmonary Edema from iatrogenic Intravenous Administration of Local Anesthetic with Epinephrine during 17 Year Old Laparoscopic Appendectomy

Primary Author: Benjamin Robelo Doctor of Medicine
Upstate Medical University

Co-Authors:

The patient was a 17-year-old male scheduled for a laparoscopic appendectomy for acute appendicitis. At the end of the case local anesthetic with epinephrine was injected by the surgeon and the patient became severely tachycardic and hypertensive. The patient returned to normal heart rate and blood pressure spontaneously.

The patient’s endotracheal tube was disconnected from the circuit and pink frothy sputum emerged, suggestive of flash pulmonary edema. The patient was re-sedated, remained intubated, and was placed on positive pressure ventilation. The patient was transferred to the PICU and was extubated the following day with no cardiovascular or neurologic sequela.