

What did this patient just cough up?

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Posted 1,000 on April 29, 2015 - 11:41AM EDT

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Country of Practice: United States

14 year old boy comes in with a 1 month history of a nagging, annoying cough. No fevers, sore throat, chest pain, or GI symptoms. He's felt slightly fatigued, but nothing else. As we were having a discussion about possible allergies, asthma, etc., his mother says to me, "Oh, he coughed something out of his throat over the weekend," and she produces a sealed container with the specimen depicted.

He said that he felt much better after coughing this up.

Previous Medical History: He had 3 cardiac surgeries as a young child, but isn't sure what was done. No regular meds or allergies. No sick contacts.

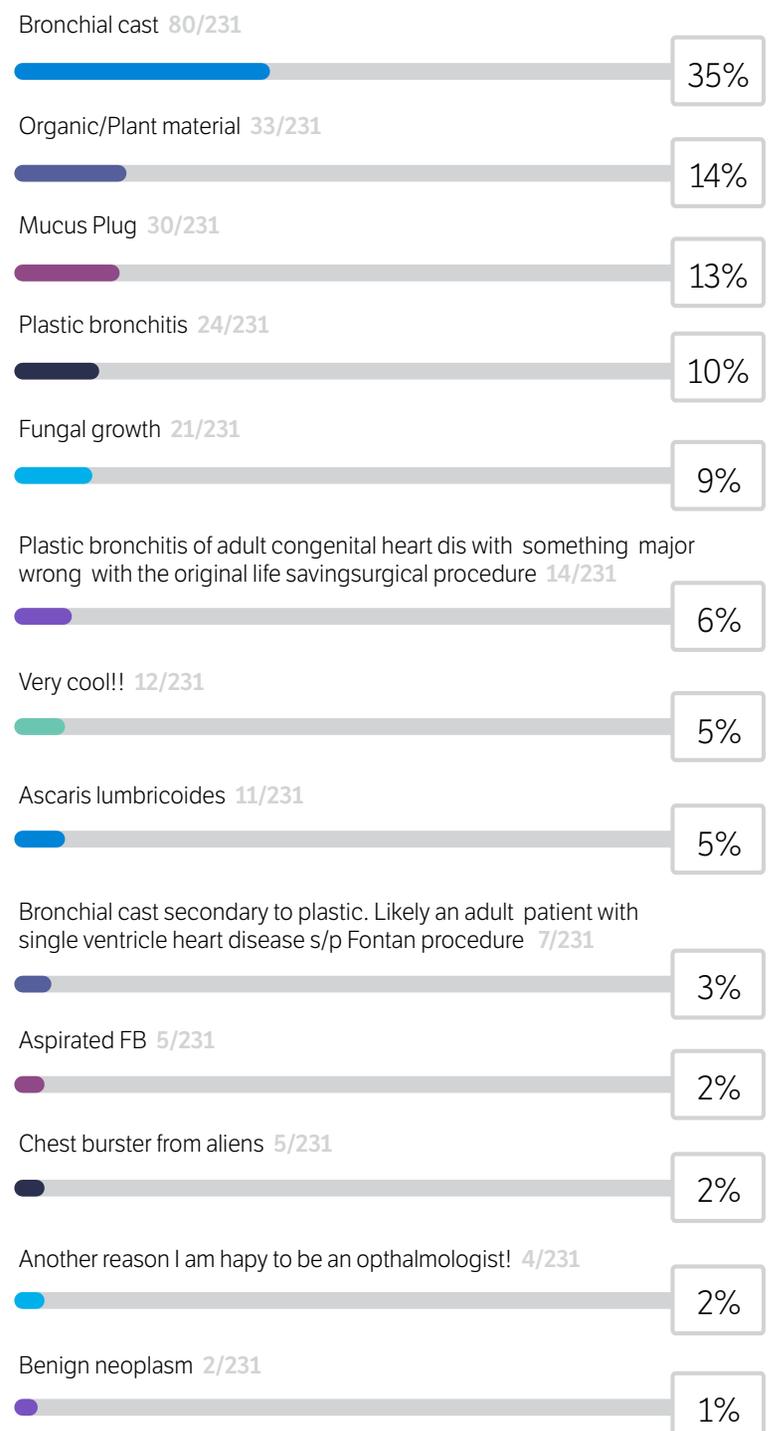
Social: He was born in the USA, but his family is from Sudan. He's never left the states.

I called our pulmonologist and he said Schistosomiasis is endemic in Sudan and had me order a chest CT with contrast and then referred him for pulm consultation.

Any guesses on what this is? I don't yet know. It looks almost like a bronchial tree cast. It feels and moves like bean sprouts?



Q What do you think it is?



Cardiology United States

Updated May 01, 2015 - 06:33PM EDT edit

This has nothing to do with Sudan, or infection. While pulmonary may help, he needs to see cardiology urgently for plastic bronchitis following Fontan (3 surgeries). I hope that with a history of "3 cardiac surgeries but isnt sure what was done" you would have done that anyway but please give them a call and ask whoever is on call for the weekend when they can see him (or have him admitted)

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Pediatrics (excluding surgery) - Pulmonology/Respiratory Medicine United States

Posted May 01, 2015 - 06:56PM EDT edit

The only time I went to an Amish viewing was for a little 3yr old patient of mine who died from this recently. Mother had shown her doctors a cast she had coughed up while in the hospital for respiratory symptoms post Fontan, but sent her home without recognizing the diagnosis. She died a few days later. "

6 physicians found this comment helpful

Cardiology United Kingdom

Updated May 01, 2015 - 06:33PM EDT edit

I think this is Ascaris lumbricoides.

8 physicians found this comment helpful