55M with dyspnea

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Left upper lobe atelectasis
Portable AP of the chest demonstrates hazy opacification of the left lung with a crescentic lucency outlining the apex and aortic knob (arrow). This is described as the Luftsichel sign of left upper lobe collapse.
Left upper lobe atelectasis

- Collapse of the left upper lobe often results in compensatory hyperinflation of the superior segment left lower lobe which is interposed between the collapsed upper lobe and the mediastinum.
- On frontal radiograph this appears as a crescentic lucency outlining the upper mediastinum/aortic arch.
- It has been classically described as the Luftsichel sign (“air sickle”) in reference to the crescentic appearance of the hyperinflated lung.
References