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Pectus excavatum is associated with sleep-related breathing disorders in children

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By demonstrating the association between sleep-related breathing disorders (SRBDs) and pectus excavatum (PE) in children, SRBDs were identified as a possible risk for developing PE. All clinicians who find PE in children should consider SRBD screening. <http://bit.ly/2LFS7yE>

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To the Editor:

Funnel chest or pectus excavatum (PE) is a chest wall deformity, and its major causes include hereditary connective tissue disorders and neuromuscular diseases [1, 2]. In addition, PE is more likely to occur in the context of disorders associated with upper airway obstruction, including adenotonsillar hypertrophy and bronchomalacia [3], suggesting that these are potential causes of PE. Indeed, repeated increased intrathoracic negative pressure swings in children with sleep apnoea could lead to PE, although only limited evidence exists to this effect. We hypothesised that sleep-related breathing disorders (SRBDs) is among the causes of PE in children, and therefore examined the association between PE and SRBDs in children.