



## Why Old Scans are Gold

In a world where everything is about the now and the current, we forget how important old scans and reports can be to help sort out issues.

This is especially important in the chest, for interstitial lung diseases (Fig. 1) and lung nodules (Fig. 2) when we are not sure of the diagnosis.

Please go through the Legends in detail to understand the importance of old scans. As one senior radiologist has always said “Old scans are like liquid gold”

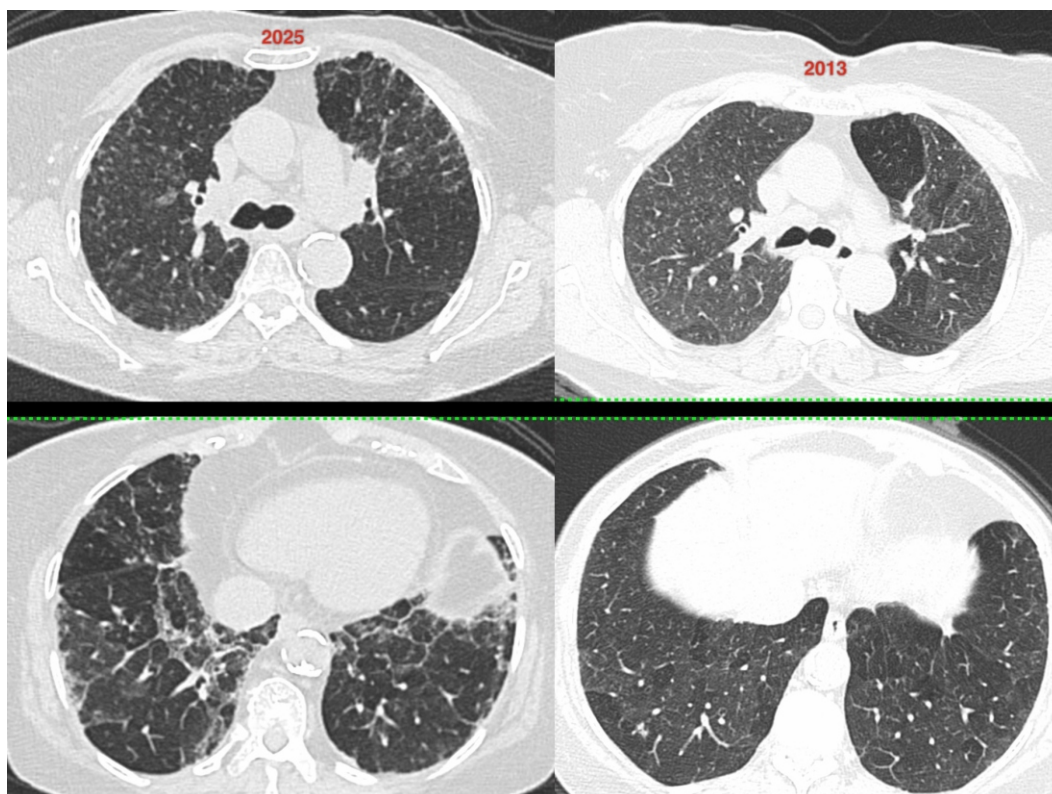
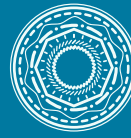
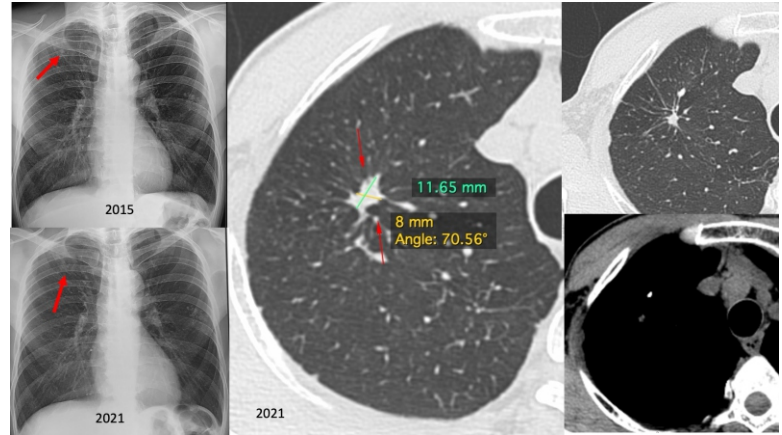


Fig. 1. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) in a 77-years old. This lady presented recently with signs and symptoms of ILD. The 2025 scan shows a non-UIP/non-IPF pattern of ILD, which is suggestive of fibrotic hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP). This pattern however can also occur with other conditions. Finally, the relatives came and said there was a 2013 scan, a review of which showed classic findings of non-fibrotic HP. Apparently, she had been treated for this and she improved then and everyone had forgotten about that incident. Her non-fibrotic HP is now a fibrotic HP with progression. We are both, sure of the diagnosis and we know that there is progressive pulmonary fibrosis (PPF).


**At a glance**

- ◆ Old scans (X-rays and imaging scans) are often ignored or forgotten or not considered significant by patients and doctors.
- ◆ In many instances, old scans can completely change the outlook and convert a potentially stressful situation into a non-clinically significant one.
- ◆ In other instances, the pattern of change can help with diagnosis and prognostication.

Fig. 2. Spiculated lung nodule in a smoker. In 2021, this 60-years old, 40 pack years history smoker, came for a CT scan and a spiculated nodule was found in the right upper lobe. This was worrisome for potential malignancy. However, there was adjacent focal fibrosis and a calcific focus, that also suggested prior tuberculosis. He came to discuss his case and on questioning he said he had multiple old radiographs from 2015 and 2016. A review of those radiographs showed this lesion to be persistent and unchanged for over 6 years, suggesting that this was just post-tuberculosis lung disease (PTLD) and not significant. Without the old radiographs, the patient would have had to undergo a PET/CT and a biopsy with all the associated stress and possibility of complications.

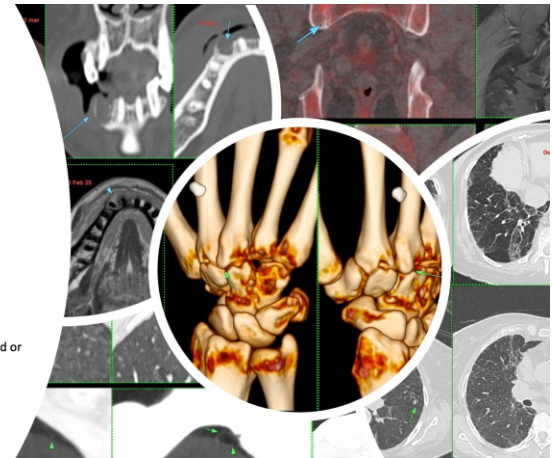

**New Initiative**

Dr. Bhavin Jankharia has started a Case of the Day (Fig. 3) initiative on YouTube, where he discusses a case reported or biopsied the same day (from Monday to Thursday) as a teaching initiative. Please use the QR code to subscribe or view.


**Case of The Day**

One case every day from Monday to Thursday, discussing a case I have reported or biopsied the same day

Dr. Bhavin Jankharia



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