

A 25-year-old Mediastinum Intruder

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Abstract

A 77-year-old female with aggravating dyspnea was referred to us for the surgical management of a severe calcific aortic valve stenosis. Patient history showed the presence of a mediastinum cystic mass described in 1997 for which clinical surveillance had been proposed. Preoperative computed tomography (Figure 1) and chest X-ray (Figure 2) revealed that the cystic mass had tripled over the last 25 years and currently measured 17x13x3 cm. An aortic valve replacement associated with *en bloc* removal of the cystic mass was performed.

Keywords: Cyst; Mediastinum; Pleuropericardial

Materials and Methods

Perioperative examination (Figure 3) and histopathological findings (Figure 4) were consistent with benign pleuropericardial cyst.

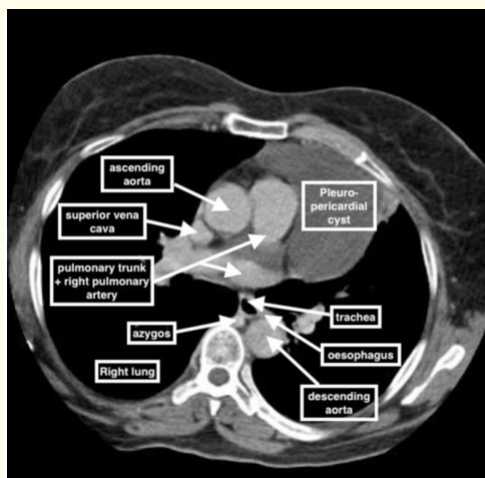


Figure 1

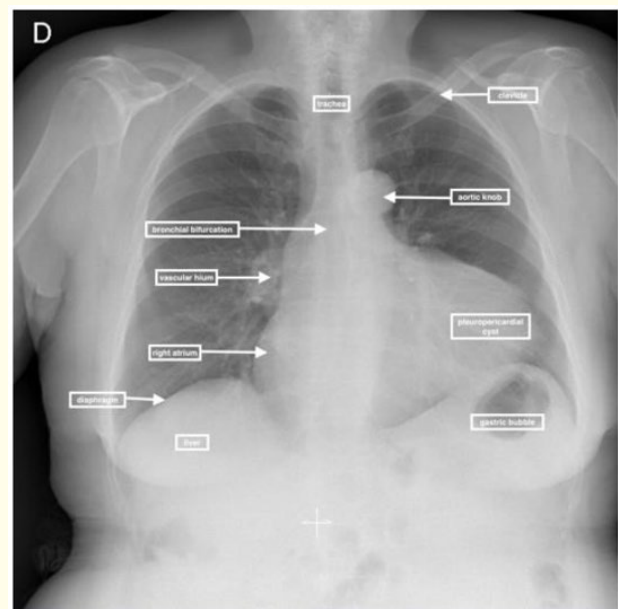


Figure 2

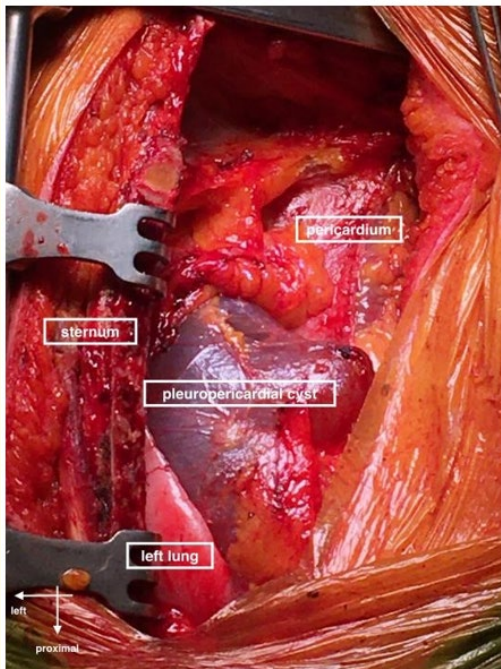


Figure 3



Figure 4

Results

The postoperative recovery was successful and the clinical follow-up uneventful.

Conclusion

Pleuropericardial cysts, generally fortuitously discovered, are a relatively rare form of mediastinal benign cyst with an embryological origin [1]. Their management should consist in a complete surgical excision, even in asymptomatic patients, in order to prevent complications and obtain a definitive histological diagnosis [2].

Disclosure of Interest

None to declare.

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