Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Malignant melanocytic schwannoma, a rare tumor of the posterior mediastinum

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Resection of the mediastinal tumor (Fig. 1) in a 76-year-old woman, who suffered from progressively aggravated thoracic pain and dyspnea, established the diagnosis of the malignant melanocytic schwannoma (a rare tumor of peripheral nervous system origin that arises in the posterior mediastinum) at histologic and immunohistochemic examination (Fig. 2).

Fig. 1. Chest CT scan: giant (15×13 cm), encapsulated and including calcified areas, posterior mediastinal tumor. The tumor compresses the upper lobe of the right lung.

Fig. 2. Tumor cells stained with anti-HMB45 ×450 (inset: the same tumor cells stained with H-E ×45).