Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Giant thymolipoma in association with myasthenia gravis

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A 25-year-old female patient with myasthenia gravis underwent resection of a giant mass located in the anterior mediastinum that measured 34 × 18 × 7 cm and weighed 1,780 g (Fig. 1). Histologically, the tumor proved to be a thymolipoma (Fig. 2). The association of myasthenia gravis with giant thymolipoma is rare. Myasthenic symptoms improved significantly after surgery.

Fig. 1. Spiral CT scan reveals a large inhomogeneous anterior mediastinal mass composed of fatty areas which surrounded the heart entirely and extended into both hemithorax.

Fig. 2. Photomicrograph of the thymolipoma: mature adipose tissue and thymic tissue with Hassall’s corpuscle (→). HE × 100.