Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Nail gun penetrating cardiac injury

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A 58-year-old carpenter suffered accidental nail gun penetrating injury of the chest. Chest X-ray showed a 9-cm nail in the mediastinum (Fig. 1). Computed tomography scanning revealed the nail in the heart (Fig. 2). Through median sternotomy, the nail was removed and an entry of the right ventricle was closed.

Fig. 1. Chest X-ray showed a 9-cm nail in the mediastinum.

Fig. 2. Chest computed tomography scanning revealed a nail in the heart and left pleural effusion without periaortic hematoma. The nail penetrated the heart from the anterior to posterior surface in the ventricular level and nearly reached to the descending thoracic aorta.

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