Overlooked blunt bronchial rupture detected by three-dimensional helical-CT

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A 34-year-old man was referred for persistent dyspnea 6 months after a blunt chest trauma with subcutaneous emphysema and bilateral pneumothoraces, however, without initial bronchoscopy. The three-dimensional CT reconstruction revealed a stenosis of the intermedius bronchus, confirmed by bronchoscopy and successfully treated by bronchial sleeve resection (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1. The arrow shows the stenosis of the intermedius bronchus. The initial aerostasis was resumed by spontaneous entrapment of pulmonary artery into the bronchial tear.