A 30-year-old woman presented with intermittent hemoptysis for 3 years. Fifteen years earlier, she suffered penetrating injury to the chest after falling onto a pile of broken twigs (Fig. 1A). Imaging revealed a cylindrical lesion in the right upper lobe lung (Fig. 1B and C). The lobe was resected and found to contain a tree branch (Fig. 2).
Fig. 2. (A) The resected right upper lobe of lung was cut open to reveal a fully recognizable broken tree branch inside a cavity, which was lined with a thick fibrous capsule and which contained purulent, foul-smelling fluid. Histological analysis confirmed bronchiectatic change in the lung surrounding the cavity. (B) The tree branch traversed through the lateral aspect of the right upper lobe, and impacted into the inside surface of the sixth rib posteriorly. En bloc resection of a short segment of the sixth rib was required. The patient made a good recovery and had no further cough or hemoptysis.