A 35-year-old man fell 15 m and landed on the roof of a car. On the scene, he required immediate tracheal intubation for respiratory distress and analgesia. On CT-scan a lateral disruption of the tracheal ring was suspected (Fig. 1). A sternotomy confirmed the tracheal rupture 2 cm above the carina, spanned by endotracheal tube (Fig. 2).

Fig. 1. (a) At the level of the endotracheal tube cuff, the CT-scan revealed a diffuse pneumomediastinum, subcutaneous emphysema, a left pneumothorax and normal appearance of endotracheal tube cuff and tracheal ring. (b) Fifty millimeters below that, a lateral disruption of the tracheal ring communicating with pneumomediastinum was seen (arrows).

Fig. 2. Operative view of the tracheal rupture 2 cm above the carina, spanned by endotracheal tube. The endotracheal tube was positioned beyond the injury for tracheal repair.