Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

A giant primary myxoid liposarcoma of the posterior mediastinum

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We report a case of a 44-year-old male complaining of chest distress and abdominal distention. Chest radiography showed a giant posterior mediastinal mass severely compressing the heart (Fig. 1). The patient underwent complete en bloc surgical resection of the fully encapsulated intra-thoracic mass with a histological diagnosis of primary myxoid liposarcoma (Fig. 2).

Fig. 1. Chest X-ray revealed a widened mediastinum with enlargement of the angle between the left and right main stem bronchus and a left pleural effusion (A). Chest CT showed a 22 cm × 21 cm posterior mediastinal mass extending into the left chest exerting mass effect on the heart (B).

Fig. 2. Intra-operative view of the tumour, giant and encapsulated, with the left lower lobe of the lung displaced and elevated (A). In gross appearance, it was thinly encapsulated, dull pale yellow in colour with a smooth surface covered with many feeding vessels, 22 × 21 × 20 cm³ in size (B). On cut section, the mass consisted of adipose tissue with a fibrous core (C). Histological examination of the tumour (magnification ×100) (D).

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