Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Malignant pericardial mesothelioma

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A 72-year-old female, who had no asbestos exposure, felt chest pain. She was diagnosed with pericarditis. After 6 months, a follow-up chest computed tomography (CT) showed a thickened pericardium (Fig. 1(A) and (B)) and a positron emission tomography (PET) scan was positive along the pericardium (Fig. 1(C)). An open pericardial biopsy proved malignant pericardial mesothelioma (Fig. 2).

Fig. 1. (A) Chest CT shows pericardial thickening and a mass. The mass is shown at the base and subcarinal area. (B) Thickened pericardium is shown along all of the pericardium. (C) PET scan is positive along the pericardium, similar to chest CT.

Fig. 2. (A) Postoperative specimen revealed epithelial type malignant pericardial mesothelioma (Hematoxylin-eosin stain). (B) Tumor cell was stained by calretinin. Immunohistochemical stain for cytokeratin 5/6, D2-40, AE1/AE3, and vimentin was positive (not shown). However, staining for CEA was negative (not shown).

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