Hydatid disease of the thorax with chest wall involvement presenting as a dumbbell tumor

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A 48-year-old female patient was referred with an intrathoracic mass. Computed tomography of the thorax revealed a left lung tumor (Fig. 1). Magnetic resonance imaging was performed to assess spinal invasion (Fig. 2). The patient underwent a posterior thoracotomy because of intrathoracic but extrapulmonary multiple hydatid cysts.

Fig. 1. CT scan revealed a large cystic mass arising in the paravertebral area. The lesion was extended across the spinal column as a dumbbell tumor and caused severe back pain and lower extremity weakness. Chest wall and vertebral body was also invaded. The patient’s clinical and radiological findings pointed out a malign tumor of the thorax.

Fig. 2. MRI showed encapsulated multiple cysts in the pleural space spread to the intraspinal—extradural area and also caused erosion and deformity of the ribs and vertebra. All of the cysts, including intraspinal cysts, were removed easily via left posterior thoracotomy.