Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Long survival of a patient with postoperative giant ascending aortic aneurysm

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A 75-year-old man underwent aortic valve replacement for severe regurgitation in 1991. At follow-up, an ascending aortic aneurysm was detected. In 2005, the maximum diameter (MD) was 116 mm. Currently, he has dyspnea. The MD is 140 mm (Fig. 1A and B). He has always rejected another surgery.

Fig. 1. (A) CT scan imaging without contrast showing a giant ascending aortic aneurysm with a highly calcified wall. (B) CT scan imaging with intravenous contrast showing the aneurysm compressing the right pulmonary artery (arrow), which, at least in part, could explain the dyspnea.