A rare entity: sternal foramen

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A 53-year old man was admitted to hospital with chest pain because of thoracic blunt trauma. Lateral chest-X ray showed bone expansion in the inferior sternum. Computerized thorax tomography and 3D reconstruction showed a sternal foramen with a typical bow tie appearance on the inferior sternal body and a bifid xiphoid process (Fig. 1A and B).

Figure 1: Sternal foramen. Axial (A) and coronal (B) chest CT 3D images show the classic appearance of a sternal foramen (arrows).