unreliability of surrogates alone for registration is recognized, so as to avoid potential risk to public health.

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**References**

The list of references is available in the online version of this paper.

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**CARDIOVASCULAR FLASHLIGHT**

A large mass inside the left atrium?

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A 33-year-old woman was admitted to the Emergency Room for recent-onset atypical angina and severe dyspnoea. The electrocardiogram was considered inconclusive, not demonstrating ischaemic-type abnormalities. Blood tests, including myocardial necrosis enzymes, were unremarkable. A transthoracic echocardiogram, acutely performed in the clinical suspicion of pericarditis, showed a large, hypoechoic mass apparently located inside the left atrium, filling it almost completely (Panel A, long-axis parasternal view, Supplementary material online, Movie S1). The large mass was almost missed using standard four-chamber view (Supplementary material online, Movie S2) due to its higher-plane location, and clearly visualized using off-axis more cranial modified four-chamber view (Panel B, off-axis four-chamber view, Supplementary material online, Movie S3). The subcarinal and extracardiac origin of the mass, with ab extrinseco compression of the left atrium, was demonstrated by computed tomography also showing cranial displacement of the main bronchi and pulmonary arteries (Panel C, frontal view).

The intra-operative, direct observation (Panel D) macroscopically indicated the benign cystic aspect (part of the mass after the surgical removal-Panel E). Hystological examination confirmed the nature of the mass as a bronchogenic cyst (microscopic-hystologic view, Panel F).

This case well demonstrates the strengths and limitations of echocardiography which was key to suspect the presence of this rare pathological entity, but has limitations to fully understand its nature and the relation between the mass itself and the heart, definitely demonstrated only by computed tomography. Multimodality imaging is key to refine diagnosis suspect by echocardiography.

Supplementary material is available at *European Heart Journal* online.

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