

Mediastinal widening due to lipomatosis in Nigeria: Case report

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Abstract

A recent case was reported from India with respect to the widening of the mediastinum due to lipomatosis. Therefore, this Nigerian case is presented likewise. Then, the related presentations are added from the literature.

Keywords: Lipoma; mediastinum; case report; India; Nigeria

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Introduction

From India, Kumar and associates [1] recently presented the case of a 65-year-old male with mediastinal lipomatosis. Accordingly, having come across a similar case, we report it from Nigeria.

Case Report

OM, a 40-year-old man hailed from the Igbo/Ibo ethnic group [2]. He presented to one of us (HCA) with the history of dry cough for 20 months. Both right chest pain and retrosternal pain were also complained of. After the usual investigations, surgical extirpation was carried out. It was found that a fatty mass was situated more to the right of the mediastinum and extending from both lobes of the thymus.

The specimen was received for microscopy by one of us (WIBO). It was a flat, irregular, fibro fatty mass 12 cm across. Microscopy after the usual laboratory preparations revealed the presence of lipoma.

Discussion

With regard to lipoma occurring within the chest, Suhai's associates [3] wrote from Egypt to the effect that endobronchial lipoma is an infrequent cause of total lung collapse. Likewise, from Denmark, Sivapalan's group [4] reported a similar case of obstructing endobronchial lipoma.

More commonly, there are reports of this lesion with respect to the chest wall itself from Korea [5], and Japan [6]. Indeed, David and Marshall [7] reviewed chest wall tumors, stressing that this wall plays a "critical role in the protection of thoracic and mediastinal viscera" and pointing out that they "provide an interesting diagnostic and therapeutic challenge for surgeons." Incidentally, We are persuaded that, as in this case, the pathologists also have their own share of such challenges!

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