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Mediastinal Mass with Blood Supply from the Coronary Arteries

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Figure 1. Right anterior oblique view of the right coronary artery (RCA) shows a large and small vessel (arrows) exiting the proximal aspect of the RCA and entering the medial aspect of the tumor (T).

A 35-year-old female with a history of hypertension was referred for coronary angiography to evaluate the blood supply to a mediastinal mass discovered on chest CT scan. The patient's urinary vanillylmandelic acid (VMA) and urine metanephrine levels were significantly elevated, and a iodine-131-meter-iodobenzylguanidine (MIBG) scan revealed a large right mediastinal paraganglioma without identifiable metastasis. An attempt was made to resect the tumor through a right thoracotomy incision. During the procedure, large vessels supplying the tumor arising from the pericardium were observed and the

Figure 2. A left lateral projection of the left coronary system reveals tumor (T) arteries arising from both the left anterior descending and left circumflex arteries (arrows).

surgical procedure was aborted. Coronary angiograms revealed vessels supplying the tumor originating primarily from the right (Fig. 1) and left (Fig. 2) coronary arteries. She subsequently underwent surgical resection of the tumor. Pathology revealed that the mass was indeed a paraganglioma.¹

Reference

1. Lenders JW, Eisenhofer G, Mannelli M, Pacak K: Pheochromocytoma. *Lancet*. 2005;366(9486):665–675.