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Images in Cardiology: Giant Left Atrial Aneurysm Secondary to Mitral Stenosis

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FIG. 1 Frontal radiograph of the chest showing a homogenous soft tissue opacity (arrow) obliterating the right costophrenic and cardio-phrenic angles.

FIG. 2 Gray scale ultrasound image of the right hemithorax showing the dilated left atrium (arrowheads).

A 32-year old woman with rheumatic heart disease and a surgical history of mitral valve replacement presented with heaviness in the right chest. A plain radiograph of the chest showed a soft tissue density obliterating the right cardio-phrenic and the right costophrenic angles (Fig. 1). Ultrasound of the chest showed a well-defined hypoechoic collection with swirling internal echoes in the right hemithorax (Fig. 2). Contrast-enhanced computed tomography of the thorax showed the presence of a 10×16 cm massively dilated left atrium (Fig. 3). She was diagnosed with a giant left atrial aneurysm. To the authors' knowledge, this is the largest left atrial aneurysm secondary to mitral stenosis to be reported in the literature.

Reference

Wang T, Anagnostopoulos CE, Resnekov L: Aneurysm of the body of the left atrium presenting with chest pain. *Chest* 1975;67(2):226–228

FIG. 3 Contrast-enhanced axial computed tomographic image of the chest showing the massively dilated left atrium (white arrows). Note the prosthetic mitral valve (black arrow).