

PERICARDIAL CYST, A CASE REPORT

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A 83 year-old woman was referred for evaluation of a left paracardiac mass. She had a history of hypertension and bronchiectasis involving the right middle lobe. The blood pressure was 160/90 mm Hg, and the heart rate was 80 beats / min and regular. The heart sounds were normal and there was no audible murmur and the jugular vein pressure was not elevated. Routine laboratory values were unremarkable.

An electrocardiogram revealed a normal sinus rhythm and left axis deviation due to left anterior hemiblock. A chest roentgenogram demonstrated mild cardiomegaly and partial collapse consolidation of the right middle lobe and a large left paracardiac mass. A computed tomographic scan (CT) of the chest demonstrated a well-marginated cyst in the anterior pleuropericardial space distinct from the adjacent heart and vasculature (Fig. 1).

The magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) demonstrated a lobulated well-marginated non-enhancing mass (Fig. 2a) measuring 7.5x12x11.5 cm in the anterior mediastinum with intermediate signal intensity in T1-weighted turbo spin echo (T1-W TSE) (Fig. 2b) and T2-W TSE sequences (Fig. 2c). The pericardium was well seen adjacent to the mass. There was bronchiectasis and collapse consolidation of the right middle lobe.

Because of the atypical features of the cystic mass an aspiration was performed under CT guidance. Approximately 300 ml of milky fluid was aspirated.

The biochemical analysis of the fluid revealed an elevated protein of 10 gm/L, CK 0/UL, LD 2u/L, cholesterol 0.1mmol/L, glucose 3.3mmol/L. Microscopy demonstrated 135x10⁶ /L white cells and 25x10⁶ /L red cells. Microbiology and culture were unremarkable.

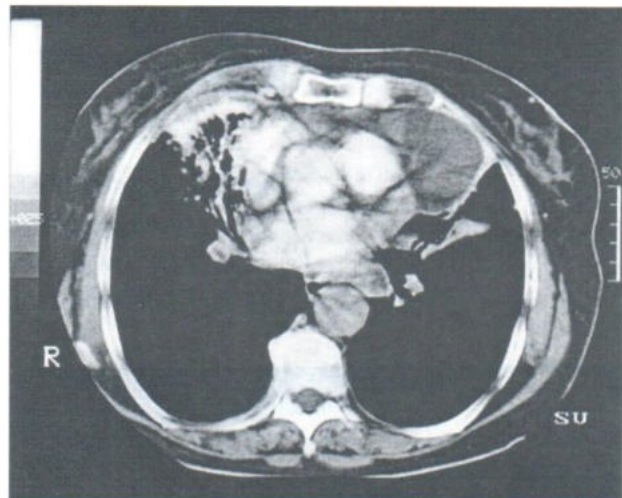
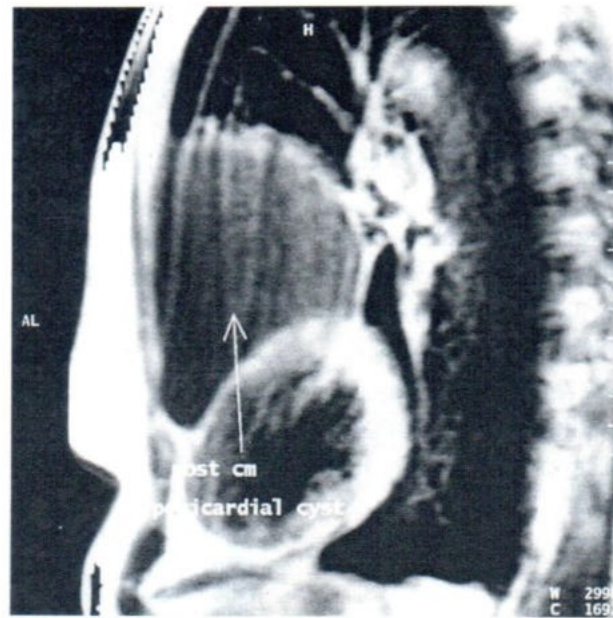


Fig. 1. Axial post-contrast CT scan demonstrates right middle lobe bronchiectasis and anterior pericardial cyst.

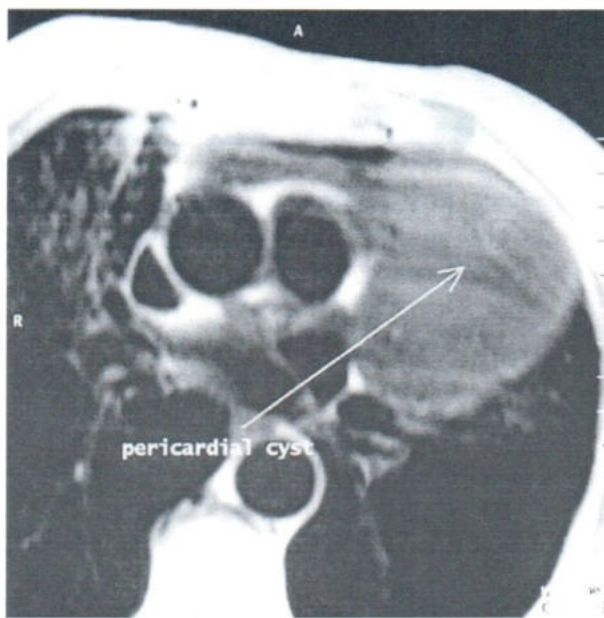
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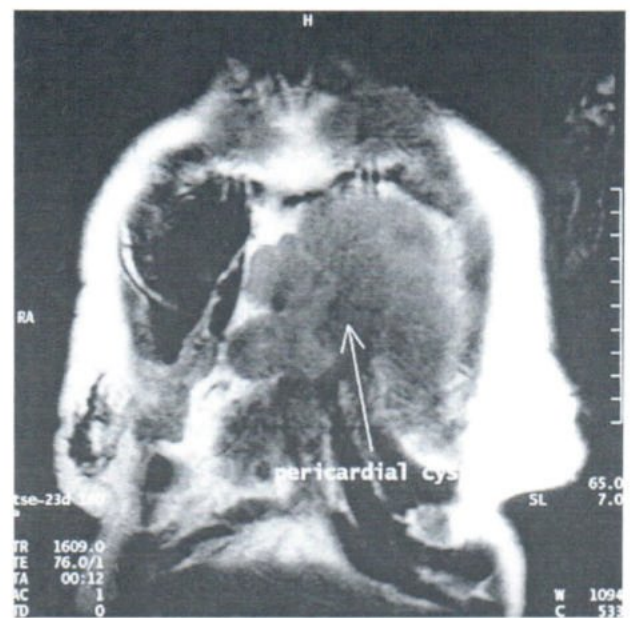


2a

Fig. 2a. Sagittal post-contrast T1-weighted MRI image. Non-enhancing pericardial cyst. (arrow), post cm pericardial cyst; post-contrast pericardial cyst.



2b



2c

Fig. 2b. TSE T1-weighted axial image, (C) TSE T2-weighted coronal image. Large lobulated well-margined intermediate signal intensity anterior pericardial cyst. Right middle lobe bronchiectasis. (arrow); pericardial cyst.

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