

CLINICAL IMAGE

Spontaneous Rupture of Dilated Thoracic Duct in Lymphangioliomyomatosis

Ehrler M and Mouton WG*

Department of Surgery, Spital STS AG, 3600 Thun, Switzerland

*Corresponding author: Mouton WG, FETCS, FEBVS, Department of Surgery, Spital STS AG Thun, CH-3600 Thun, Switzerland, Fax: + 41 33 226 29 33, Tel: + 41 33 226 29 21, E-mail: wolfgang.mouton@outlook.com

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Case Report

A 55 year old female patient was diagnosed 15 years ago within lymphangioliomyomatosis by a laparoscopic ovarian biopsy. Since then the patient was treated hormonally. A spontaneous rupture of the dilated thoracic duct occurred ten years ago. In Figure 1 contrast-enhanced CT shows a left chylothorax and the dilated thoracic duct at the time. The maximal diameter of the thoracic duct was 30 mm. Figure 2 demonstrates the corresponding curved multiplanar reconstruction of the thoracic duct. Repeated thoracenteses were not successful and recurrences occurred. A left side thoracoscopy was therefore performed under general anaesthesia and with single lung ventilation. The rupture within the thoracic duct was not visible during the operation.

A talc pleurodesis was performed. The left thoracoscopic talc pleurodesis had to be repeated after two months due to a recurrence of the chylothorax. Since then neither a thoracic duct rupture nor a chylothorax have occurred and the diameter of the thoracic duct has decreased by 5 mm within three years. In summary, thoracoscopic talc pleurodesis may be a good therapy to treat a chylothorax secondary to a spontaneous thoracic duct rupture in lymphangioliomyomatosis. Our patient has now been ten years recurrence free after the repeated thoracoscopic talc pleurodeses had been performed.

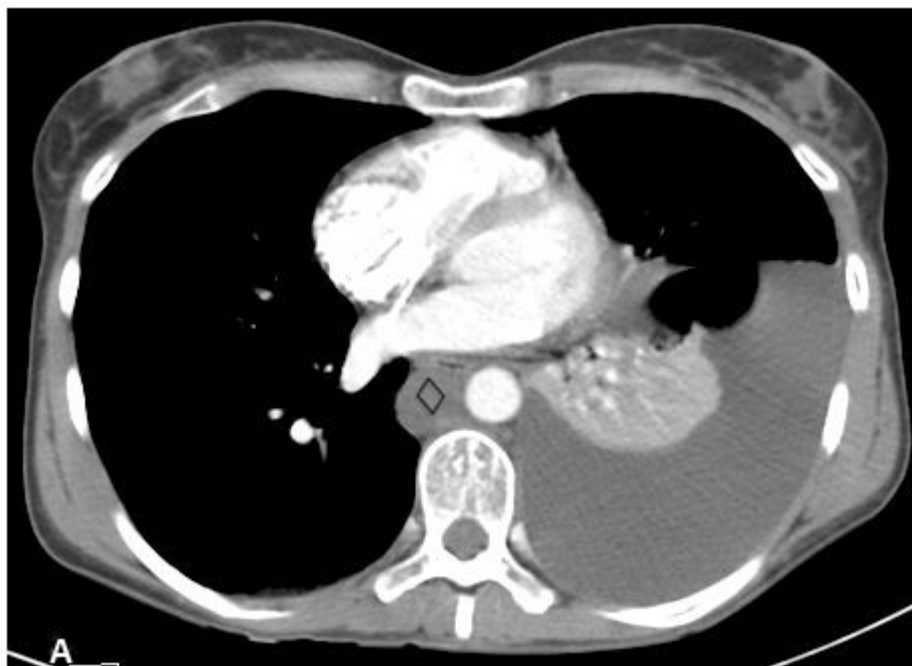


Figure 1 : Left chylothorax and dilated thoracic duct (◇) measured up to 3 cm in diameter (A)



Figure 2: Curved multiplanar reconstruction (MPR) of thoracic duct (◊) (B)