

## Mediastinal lipoma with vascular compression

*Emmanuel Urquieta, Humayun Anjum, Sheila Zanoria, Joseph Varon, Salim Surani*

### Case description

A 56-year-old gentleman presented to the emergency department with shortness of breath and neck swelling of a couple of weeks duration. After a comprehensive physical examination and chest radiograph revealing an upper mediastinal abnormality, a computed tomography (CT) scan of the chest (**Figures 1A** and **1B**) depicted a 8x7x5.7 cm mass with homogenous fat density and smooth margin, that was causing compression and anterior displacement of the superior vena cava and the left brachiocephalic vein. The patient underwent urgent surgery with removal of the tumor and postoperatively his symptoms had subsided.

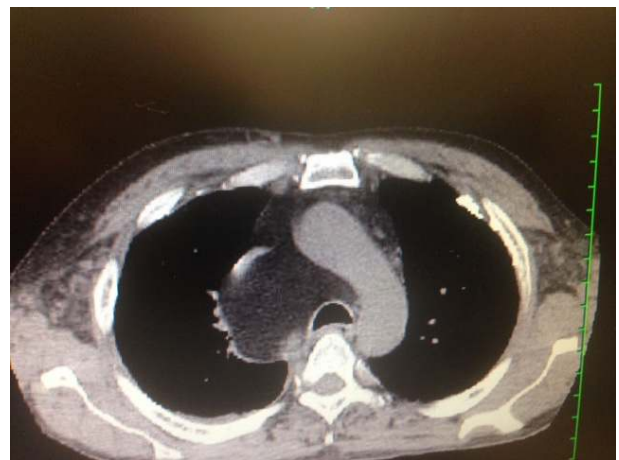
**Key words:** Mediastinum, lipoma, vascular compression, computed tomography.

### Discussion

Mediastinal lipoma is a rare tumor of mediastinum, accounting for 1.6%-2.3% of all mediastinal neoplasms. (1) These tumors are generally encapsulated, and grow very slowly. (2) From a clinical standpoint, over a period of time they may cause shortness of breath, dysrhythmias and/or vascular compression. (1) In most symptomatic cases, surgical removal is indicated.

**Conflicts of interest:** None of the authors have any conflicts of interest to disclose.

**Figures 1A** and **1B.** Computed tomography (CT) scan of chest revealing a large fat density mass in the superior mediastinum on the right side, displacing vascular structures



From Dorrington Medical Associates, PA, Houston, Texas USA (Emmanuel Urquieta), Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA (Humayun Anjum and Salim Surani), Bay Area Medical Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA (Sheila Zanoria), The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, Texas, USA (Joseph Varon).

### Address for correspondence:

Salim Surani, MD, MPH  
1177 West Wheeler Ave, Suite 117  
Aransas Pass Texas 78336, USA  
Email: srsurani@hotmail.com