A Giant Bronchogenic Cyst: A Rare Source of Chest Pain

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A 49-year-old woman presented with persistent anterior chest pain associated with high body temperature during the previous week. Arrhythmia and tenderness of the anterior chest were apparent. Laboratory evaluation of white blood cell count of 10,300/μl and C-reactive protein level of 0.51 mg/dl indicated inflammation. Cardiac evaluation revealed atrial fibrillation. Chest X-ray showed an abnormal shadow in the posterior middle mediastinum (Picture 1). Axial and coronal contrast-enhanced computed tomographies revealed a giant cystic mass compressing both the right atrium and the right ventricle (Picture 2A, B). The patient underwent a thoracoscopic resection of the cyst. The cyst contained purulent liquid and its interior wall was reddish. The patient was diagnosed as an infectious bronchogenic cyst; she recovered completely from the symptoms. Postoperative pathological evaluation was consistent with the diagnosis. Infectious bronchogenic cyst should be recognized as one of the sources of chest pain with high body temperature.

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Picture 1. Anteroposterior radiograph of the chest showing an abnormal shadow on the right.

Picture 2. A contrast-enhanced computed tomography showing a bronchogenic cyst with low signal intensity consistent with purulent liquid content. A: axial view, B: coronal view.

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