Giant Mediastinal Germ Cell Tumor

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A 35-year-old man with a 10-year history of smoking presented with dyspnea and chest pain which had started 3 months earlier. A chest radiograph showed a large anterior mediastinal mass extending on both sides (Picture 1A). Computed tomography confirmed a large inhomogeneous mass with multiple areas of necrosis and haemorrhage, measuring 23×13×33 cm (Picture 1C). Coronal reconstruction showed a large mediastinal mass surrounding the great vessels without invasion (Picture 1B). Elevated levels of human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) and alpha fetoprotein (AFP) >500 ng/mL, indicate the presence of malignant non-seminomatous elements within a tumour (1). The patient

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was treated with combination chemotherapy of bleomycin, etoposide and cisplatin with a 75% reduction of tumor volume. Surgical resection for the residual mass was performed (Picture 2: A: pericardial face, B: mediastinal face) without viable tumor in the final histology.

Although rare, these tumors are of special interest because they are potentially curable with optimal therapy (1, 2).

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References