Congenital Intrathoracic Kidney

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Picture 1.

Picture 2.

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A 28-year-old man was referred to our hospital for an evaluation of an abnormal mass on a chest radiograph (Picture 1A). He was asymptomatic and had no remarkable past medical history. A lateral chest radiograph showed a posterior mediastinal mass (Picture 1B). A contrast-enhanced computed tomography scan (Picture 2) revealed that the left-sided malrotated kidney and a portion of the descending colon (arrowhead) were protruding above the diaphragm and into the left thorax through the foramen of Bochdalek.

Intrathoracic kidney is a rare congenital anomaly, with an estimated prevalence of less than 1 in 10,000. The left kidney is more commonly involved than the right kidney, and men are more often affected than women (1). Although intrathoracic kidneys complicated with Bochdalek hernia require surgical intervention, an incidentally diagnosed asymptomatic intrathoracic kidney, as observed in this case, requires no particular medical care (1).

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

Reference