Asymptomatic Saccular Aneurysm of the Superior Vena Cava

Asako Kuhara, Kiminori Fujimoto, Masamichi Koganemaru and Toshi Abe

Key words: aneurysm, superior vena cava, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging

(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.54.4815)

A 63-year-old asymptomatic woman presented with a sharply marginated mass superimposed on the right hilar region in a screening chest radiograph (Picture 1, arrow). Transaxial and sagittal multiplanar reconstruction images of contrast-enhanced computed tomography revealed a well-enhanced, anterior mediastinal mass lesion (4.4×4.5×6.2 cm;
Pictures 2 and 3, arrows) continuing to the superior vena cava (SVC). T2-weighted magnetic resonance imaging revealed a turbulent flow and a signal void in the lumen (Picture 4, arrows). According to the imaging findings, the patient was diagnosed with a saccular SVC aneurysm. The patient has been observed without receiving treatment, and the lesion has not changed in size or shape during 3 years of radiographic follow-up.

SVC aneurysms, especially the saccular type, are extremely rare (1). Therefore, delineating the characteristic radiographical findings would be beneficial for the proper diagnosis of these cases. Previous reports have demonstrated that conservative management, rather than resection, is recommended in the absence of changes in the lesion size or shape (2).

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

References

© 2015 The Japanese Society of Internal Medicine
http://www.naika.or.jp/imonline/index.html