



GIANT ANCIENT SCHWANNOMA PRESENTING AS A MEDIASTINAL MULTICYSTIC TUMOR: A CASE REPORT

Lisica Šikić N.¹, ČULINA Ž.², Bačić I.³, Skitarelić N.⁴, Čulina D.⁵

¹ Zadar General Hospital, Zadar, Zadar, Croatia
Department of Pathology, Cytology and Forensic Medicine

² Zadar General Hospital, Zadar, Croatia
Division of Pulmology, Department of Internal Medicine

³ Zadar General Hospital, Zadar, Croatia
Division of Thoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery

⁴ University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia
Department Health Studies

⁵ University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
School of Medicine

Objective: Introduction: Mediastinal masses are frequently encountered in clinical practices of pulmonologists and thoracic surgeons. They include various types of benign or malignant tumors and cysts. They differ by location and age of the patient. Schwannomas (or neurilemmomas) are the most common benign neurogenic neoplasms of posterior mediastinum. Mostly they are asymptomatic but can attain a large size and cause pressure symptoms by compressing lung and air way, esophagus, heart or great veins. Ancient schwannoma is a rare variant of schwannoma which shows prominent degenerative changes such as cystic degeneration, hemorrhage, calcification and cytologic atypia. If these changes are extensive, they can be confused with

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malignant neoplasms.

Case Presentations: A 53 years old lady with no other diseases, presented with intermittently left sided chest pain and hoarseness. CT chest demonstrated a lobulated, encapsulated soft tissue tumor measured 13×10×8 cm, containing several cystic areas. The tumor abutted the descending aorta, left pulmonary artery, compressing lung and air way, esophagus, and was adhered to the left lower lobe of the lung, as well as the adjacent pleura. Tumor was completely excised and sent for histopathology. The tumor was confirmed to be an Ancient schwannoma based on histopathologic features and immunohistochemistry staining.

Conclusion: Ancient schwannoma is a rare benign tumor that can attain large size and cause compressive symptoms. It can develop degenerative changes and atypical features that may result in erroneous diagnosis of a malignant tumour. Complete surgical resection is curative.