

## Atherosclerotic aneurysm of the thoracic aorta

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**Section:** Cardiovascular

**Imaging Technique:** CT

**Imaging Technique:** MR

Case Type: Clinical Cases

**Authors:** E. Bassetti, I. Carbone, C. Catalano

**Patient:** 87 years, male

### Clinical History:

An 88 years old man with a past history of hypertension. A chest X Ray showed a thoracic mass that had been revealed an aortic thoracic aneurysm by a CT angiography. The patient is doing well.

### Imaging Findings:

An 88 years old man. He had a past history of hypertension (150/95) without any other incident of note. Last November he underwent a chest X Ray before surgery. The X Ray showed a bulging of the left hilum. A CT angiography of the chest revealed an atherosclerotic sacciform aneurysm of the thoracic aorta. The vascular surgeon decided not to operate and the patient is following by our institution every 3 months. At the moment the patient is doing well.

### Discussion:

Many are the causes for the etiology of thoracic aortic aneurysm: Atherosclerosis, cystic medial degeneration, myxomatous degeneration, dissection, infection, trauma and post stenotic dilatation. The incidence of thoracic aortic aneurysm increases with age. They could be symptomatic, but often a routine chest film reveals an asymptomatic thoracic aneurysm. Actually, by using CT or MR angiography there is a diagnosis accuracy of almost 100%.

**Differential Diagnosis List:** Atherosclerotic sacciform aneurysm of the thoracic aorta

**Final Diagnosis:** Atherosclerotic sacciform aneurysm of the thoracic aorta

### References:

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Aortic arch aneurysms: surgical results and follow up in 56 patients.

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Balm et al.

Spiral CT angiography of the aorta.

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Rubin GD

Helical CT angiography of the aorta

J Thorac Imaging 1997 Apr; 12(2): 128-49. (PMID: [9179826](#))

Chung JW et al.

Spiral Ct angiography of the thoracic aorta.

Radiographics 1996 Jul; 16(4):811-24. (PMID: [8835973](#))

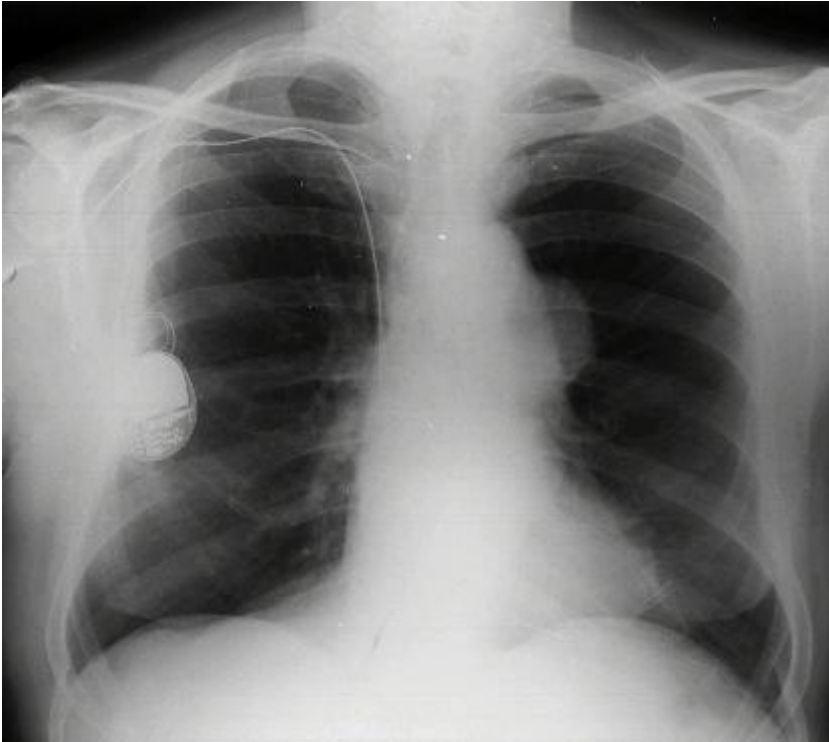
Kopecky KK et al.

Spiral Ct angiography of the aorta

Semin Ultrasound CT MR 1996 Aug; 17(4): 304-15. (PMID: [8858770](#))

**Figure 1**

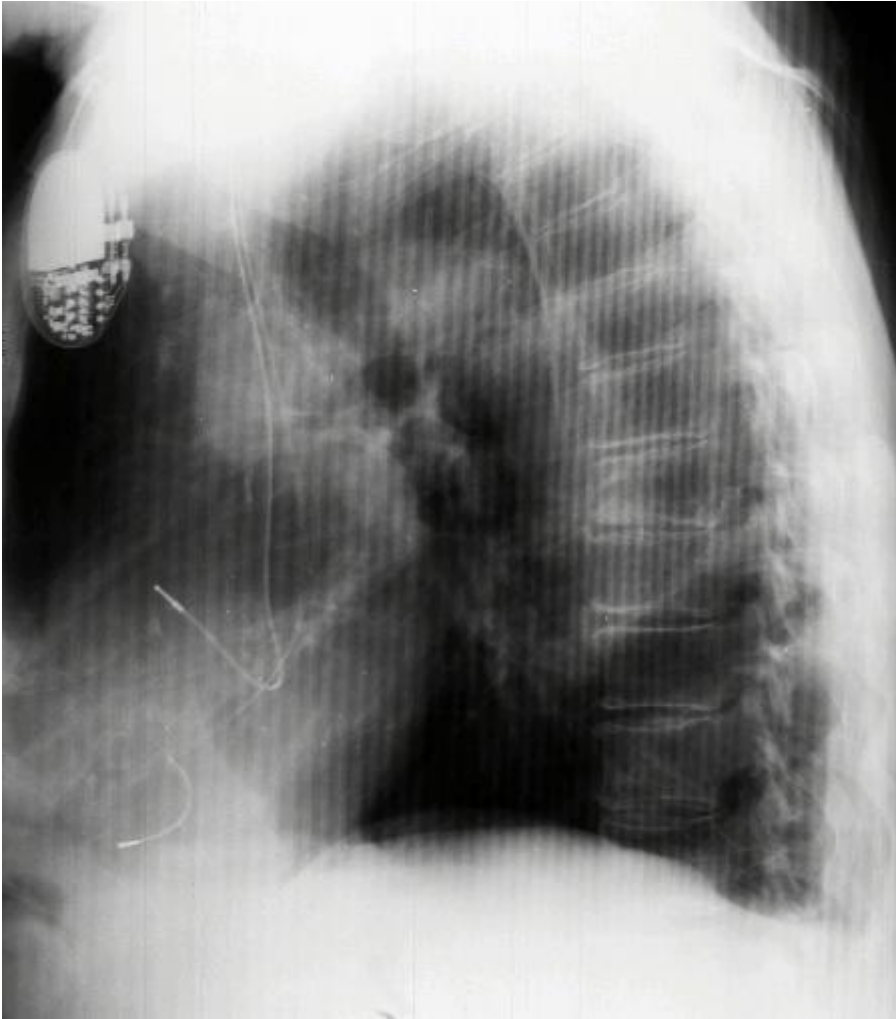
**a**



**Description:** The image shows the presence of a round opacity of 4.5 cm of diameter in the iuxtahilar region, without the evidence of the “silhouette sign”, demonstrating the anterior position of the expansive formation. The mass has some periferal calcifications. **Origin:**

**Figure 2**

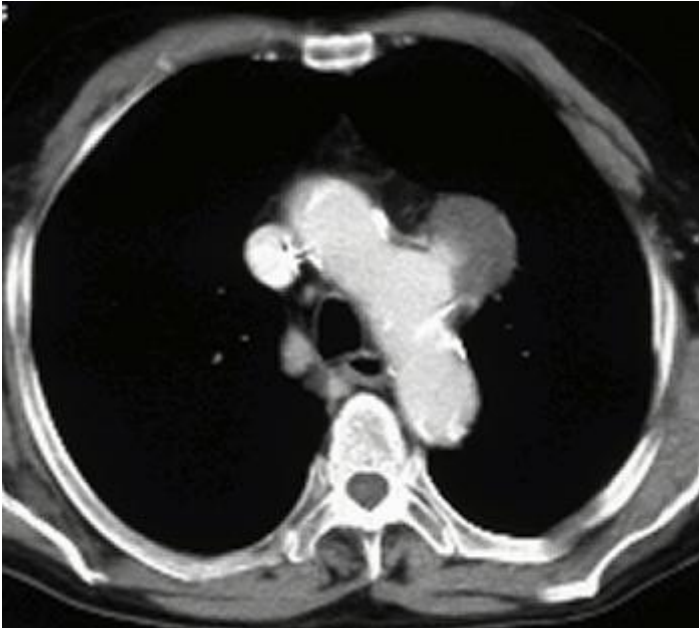
**a**



**Description:** The lateral radiograph confirms the anterior position of the mass, localized near the anterior portion of the aortic arch. **Origin:**

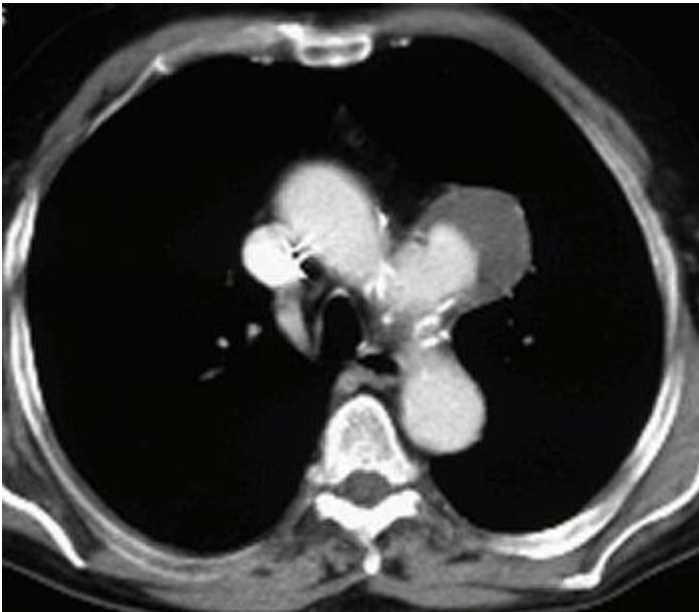
**Figure 3**

**a**



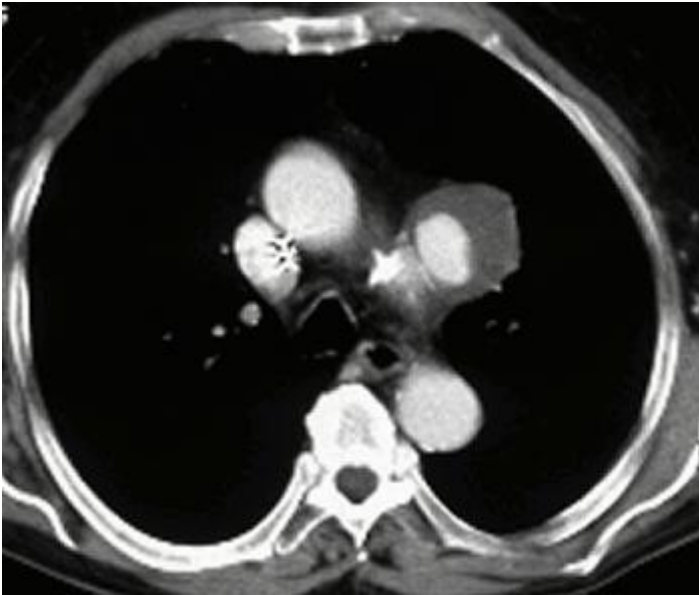
**Description:** Presence of a sacciform aneurysm of the thoracic aorta (5 cm x 4 cm), that originates in the external profile of the aortic arch with a large parietal thrombos. The exam confirms the presence of calcifications. **Origin:**

**b**



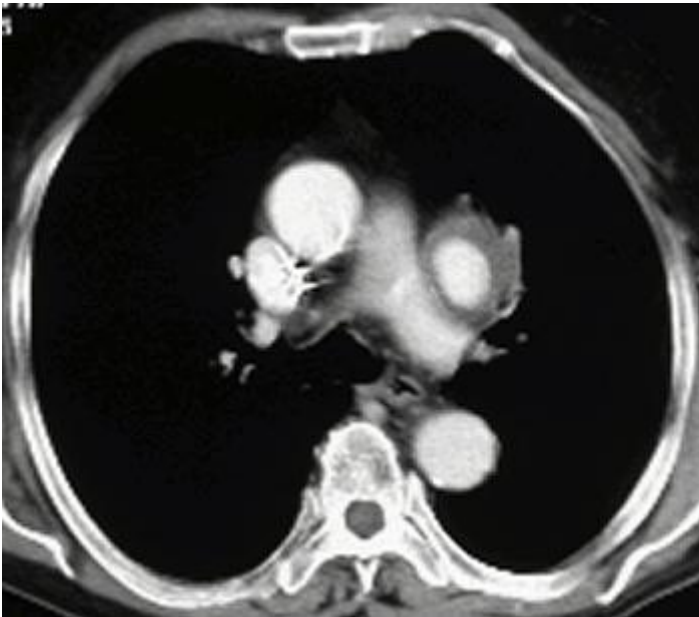
**Description:** Presence of a sacciform aneurysm of the thoracic aorta (5 cm x 4 cm), that originates in the external profile of the aortic arch with a large parietal thrombos. The exam confirms the presence of calcifications. **Origin:**

**c**



**Description:** Presence of a sacciform aneurysm of the thoracic aorta (5 cm x 4 cm), that originates in the external profile of the aortic arch with a large parietal thrombos. The exam confirms the presence of calcifications. **Origin:**

**d**



**Description:** Presence of a sacciform aneurysm of the thoracic aorta (5 cm x 4 cm), that originates in the external profile of the aortic arch with a large parietal thrombos. The exam confirms the presence of calcifications. **Origin:**