

Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Synovial cyst arising from pseudoarthrosis of a rib fracture following trauma

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A traumatized 63-year-old man was managed with tube thoracostomy as he had a right-sided hemopneumothorax and multiple rib fractures. He had an uneventful outcome, however, he presented with a soft, painful swelling in the vicinity of his right scapula 8 weeks following his discharge.

Chest X-ray showed apparent non-union 4-5-6-7th ribs on the right side. Computed tomography showed a right-sided cystic appearance (Fig. 1). Histological and immunohistochemical examination revealed a cystic lesion of synovial nature (Fig. 2).

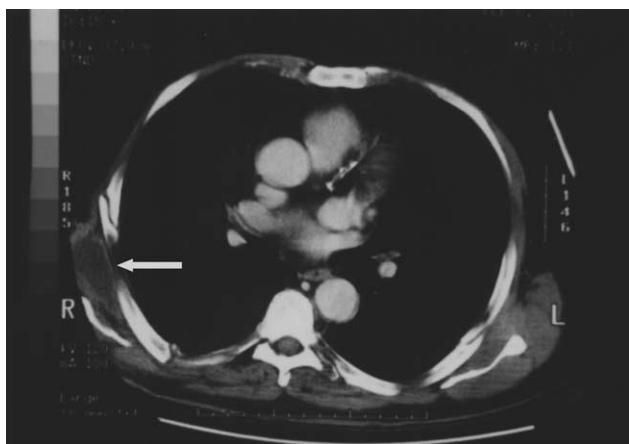


Fig. 1. Computed tomography revealing a right-sided cyst formation on the chest wall beneath the serratus anterior muscle (arrow).

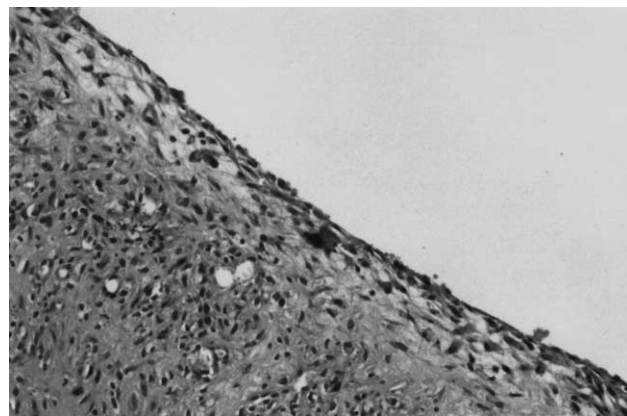


Fig. 2. Fibrous thickened wall lined by a monolayered synovial membrane (HE $\times 100$).

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