

Clinical Image

Pleomorphic Adenoma of the Trachea

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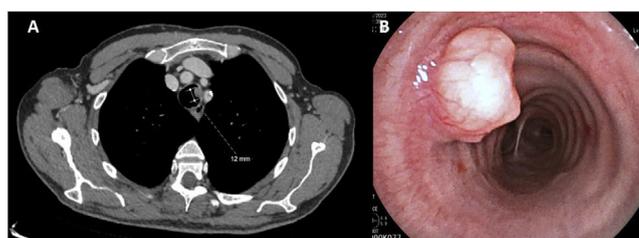


Fig. 1. (A) Thoracic computerized tomography in axial plane demonstrating a polypoid lesion in the left side of the middle third of the trachea, with a maximum diameter of 12 mm. (B) Endotracheal view of the trachea, confirming the presence of a vascularized polypoid lesion in the left wall of the middle third of the trachea.

A 66 year-old male with a history of smoking (35 pack-year units) and gastric adenocarcinoma was referred to a Pulmonology consultation because of abnormal imaging findings. During routine follow-up, thoraco-abdominal computerized tomography was performed, revealing a polypoid lesion in the middle third of the trachea, with a maximum diameter of 12 mm (Fig. 1A). He was asymptomatic and had a normal physical examination. Flexible bronchoscopy was performed, confirming the presence of an intra-luminal, highly vascularized polypoid lesion in the middle third of the trachea (Fig. 1B). Biopsies were performed, providing the diagnosis of a pleomorphic adenoma. After multidisciplinary discussion the patient was referred to Thoracic Surgery; segmental tracheal resection was successfully performed.

Pleomorphic adenomas are the most common tumors of the salivary glands but are rare in the trachea (2–9%).¹ Presentation is often delayed due to their insidious growth; radical treatment must be considered due to the high risk of recurrence.^{1,2} Although surgical segmental resection has been the preferred option, bronchoscopic intervention, with the aid of electrocautery or argon-plasma coagulation has been described.^{1,3} Given the rarity of this entity, its clinical course and optimal follow-up remain undetermined. Local recurrence has been documented after more than ten years.²

Conflict of Interests

The authors state that they have no conflict of interests.

References

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