Intrathoracic cystic lymphangiomas are rare benign tumors that generally occur in children and young adults. Imaging tests are required for diagnosis (CT or magnetic resonance) and histological confirmation can be obtained with CT-guided biopsy or mediastinoscopy. The most effective treatment is resection, although incomplete resection can be associated with a risk of recurrence. Other therapeutic options include aspiration and drainage of the cysts for emergency decompression, injection of sclerosing agents, such as bleomycin or OK-432, or low-dose radiation therapy.

Our case is of particular interest due to both the low incidence of this entity in elderly people and the intrathoracic site. Although surgical treatment is the most widely accepted option, due to its good prognosis and lower risk of recurrence, the procedure can involve considerable morbidity. Such was the case in our patient, who presented multiple complications after surgery.

References

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