

Clinical Image

A Big Heart! Or Not?☆

Cardiomegalia, ¿o no?

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A 39-year-old Caucasian woman, former smoker (6 pack-years), was referred to the outpatient clinic with an abnormal chest X-ray that revealed a large opacity obscuring the heart border (silhouette sign), as shown in Fig. 1. Chest tomography was performed and showed a large mass occupying much of the thoracic cavity. Histological evaluation of the lesion revealed findings that suggested

a thymoma. Magnetic resonance imaging revealed no invasion of neighbouring structures. The patient underwent a bilateral thoracotomy, with excision of a 3.9 kg thymolipoma. The chest X-ray performed after the surgery, as shown in the image, revealed complete expansion of both lungs.



Fig. 1. (A) Chest X-ray (posteroanterior) revealed a large opacity obscuring the heart border (silhouette sign). (B and C) Chest MRI and CT showing a large heterogeneous mass overlying the heart. (D) Chest X-ray (posteroanterior) after surgical excision showing lung expansion.

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