

Thymic non-cystic lymphangioma: resection with preservation of entrapped phrenic nerve

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The case is reported of a 24 year-old male who presented with an asymptomatic mediastinal mass (Figures 1 and 2). At surgery the phrenic nerve was found to be trapped in the mass and the fresh frozen section was negative for malignancy. The nerve was released and preserved successfully (Figures 3 and 4). The histopathological examination showed a thymic non-cystic lymphangioma.

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Key words:

- Mediastinum
- Thymus
- Lymphangioma
- Phrenic Nerve
- Resection



FIGURE 1. Asymptomatic mediastinal mass: Preoperative chest X-ray showing a solid tumour above the left pulmonary hilum.



FIGURE 2. Asymptomatic mediastinal mass: Contrast enhanced CT-scan demonstrating the mass in the anterior mediastinum with fine calcifications.



FIGURE 3. Asymptomatic mediastinal mass: Surgical specimen: Median sternotomy was performed and a mass 15x8x4.5cm originating from the thymus was resected en bloc with the thymus, with preservation of the left phrenic nerve.



FIGURE 4. Asymptomatic mediastinal mass: Postoperative chest X-ray showing normal appearance of both apart from the multiple clips in the area of the resected tumour.

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