Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Giant benign localized fibrous tumor of the pleura

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1. Case description

A 68-year-old man was referred to our Hospital for dyspnea on exertion and chronic cough. Chest CT scan (Fig. 1) revealed a huge mass filling the entire left hemithorax without radiological signs of local infiltration. A left thoracotomy was undertaken and a 20 × 10 cm encapsulated tumor arising from a pedicle from the visceral pleura was removed (Fig. 2); the left lung was atelectatic but returned to a normal size after resection of the mass. Histology revealed a benign localized fibrous tumor of the pleura. Postoperative course was uneventful and the patient was discharged after 7 days with a normal chest X-ray.

Fig. 1. Chest CT scan showing a huge mass filling the entire left hemithorax.
Fig. 2. Operative specimen and cut section of the tumor showing a dense whorled fibrous tissue with scattered cyst-like structures and rare calcifications.