Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Intramuscular lipoma of the intercostal muscle – the source of hour-glass transmural thoracic lipomas?

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A 36-year-old man presented with a left chest mass. Computerised tomography showed an hour-glass lesion with displacement of the lung (Figs. 1 and 2). After tumour excision from the intercostal space, histology confirmed a well-circumscribed intramuscular lipoma, which may explain the hour-glass nature in the thorax.

Fig. 1. Computerised tomography scan showing laterally placed lesion straddling the intercostal space.

Fig. 2. Computerised tomography scan showing pulmonary windows with some displacement of lung parenchyma.