Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Swordfish attack: an unusual cause of penetrating thoracic wound


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Received 11 October 2001; received in revised form 18 January 2002; accepted 22 January 2002

Keywords: Thoracic trauma; Chest wall

A young male was admitted to hospital with a penetrating chest wound produced by a swordfish attack (Fig. 1). His left upper pulmonary lobe was pierced by the tip of the sword, which firmly adhered to the body of T3 (Fig. 2). Upper left lobe segmentectomy was performed. Recovery was uneventful.

Fig. 1. Thoracic computed tomography scan on admission, demonstrating a penetrating foreign body.

Fig. 2. Intraoperative view. Note a foreign body piercing the left upper pulmonary lobe and reaching the body of T3.