Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Right diaphragmatic rupture and hepatic hernia: a rare late sequela of thoracic trauma

Christophoros Kotoulas\textsuperscript{a,}\textsuperscript{*}, ELEFTERIOS CHOLIARAS\textsuperscript{b}, PANAGIOTIS SIARAPIS\textsuperscript{c}, Konstantinos Nisotakis\textsuperscript{a}

\textsuperscript{a}Department of General Thoracic Surgery, 401 General Military Hospital of Athens, Athens, Greece
\textsuperscript{b}Department of Anesthesiology, 401 General Military Hospital of Athens, Athens, Greece
\textsuperscript{c}Department of Radiology, 401 General Military Hospital of Athens, Athens, Greece

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A 20-year-old male presented with partial elevation of the right hemidiaphragm, as an accidental finding in a chest X-ray. His past medical history included a blunt thoracic trauma with rib fractures and hemopneumothorax, 16 months ago. The diagnosis was achieved by a CT-scan, while the hemidiaphragm was sutured in two layers via a thoracotomy (Figs. 1 and 2).

Fig. 1. Coronal reformatted images of helical CT-scan show the hepatic hernia of the left lobe.

Fig. 2. The 12-cm long laceration of the tendinous portion of the diaphragm and the hernia of the left hepatic lobe were revealed through an anterolateral thoracotomy.