Bilateral herniation of the small intestine through the oesophageal hiatus

In 2007, a 66-year-old man with a history of trans-hiatal oesophagectomy was admitted to our institution with acute intestinal obstruction.

Computed tomography (CT) showed a thoracic herniation of the small intestine (Fig. 1).

Bilateral thoracotomy was performed to release adherences, to reduce and repair the hernia (Fig. 2). Subsequently, the ischaemic intestine was removed.

Fig. 1. Radiologic bilateral herniation of the small intestine through the oesophageal hiatus.

Fig. 2. Ischaemic intestinal loops in the left (A) and right hemithorax (B). Closure of the hiatus in the right hemithorax (C). RL: right lung. LL: left lung. H: hiatus. I: ischaemic intestine.