Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Anterior chest ecchymosis from complicated descending thoracic aortic aneurysm

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Seventy-one-year-old female with symptomatic descending thoracic aortic aneurysm complicated by small periaortic hematoma (Fig. 1a). She was managed medically. Two days after admission she developed unusual physical finding of anterior chest ecchymosis (Fig. 2). Repeated CT-scan demonstrated remarkable worsening of periaortic hematoma (Fig. 1b). Patient underwent thoracic endovascular aortic repair.

Fig. 1. (a) CT-scan image at time of presentation. (b) CT-scan image at time of appearance of anterior chest ecchymosis.

Fig. 2. New physical finding of anterior chest ecchymosis 48 h after admission.

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