Free floating thrombus in the ascending aorta in a patient with lung carcinoma

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In a control computed tomography (CT) scan in a 60-year old patient with lung carcinoma and a previous peripheral embolism, a huge thrombus in the ascending aorta was found (Fig. 1).

Emergency surgery was performed under hypothermic circulatory arrest. A large thrombotic mass was identified and totally removed (Fig. 2). The aortic wall was normal.

Figure 1: Contrast-enhanced computed tomography scan shows a large thrombus (white solid arrow) in the ascending aorta. The CT was performed after first chemotherapy cycle.

Figure 2: (a) Intra-operative picture showing the complete removal of an organized thrombotic mass from the proximal ascending aorta. (b) Explanted mass with 4 cm of longitudinal diameter and 2.3 cm of axial diameter.