A huge mediastinal space-occupying lesion

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A 45-year old Chinese woman was admitted with repeated chest distress and dyspnoea on exertion for 7 years. Magnetic resonance imaging showed a 21.5 × 8.4 × 9.8-cm anterior mediastinal space-occupying lesion (Fig. 1A–C). This huge mass was completely removed (Fig. 1D), and a diagnosis of cavernous haemangioma was made (Fig. 1E and F).

Figure 1: (A) Transaxial T2-weighted image showing a clear structural relationship of the tumour and blood vessels. (B) Coronal T2-weighted image showing the tumour with heterogeneous signal intensity, and predominantly with high signal intensity. (C) Coronal-enhanced T1-weighted image showing a huge tumour: 21.5 × 8.4 × 9.8 cm, encompassing the left common carotid artery, pressing against the primary bronchi and brachiocephalic trunk. Most of the lesion does not show strong enhancement; and part of the lesion shows septum-like enhancement. (D) A huge tumour pressing against the left lung. (E) Optic microscopic image showing blood-filled vascular spaces with fibrohialine stroma (haematoxylin–eosin, ×100). (F) Optic microscopic image showing polymorphous vascular spaces with endothelial cell lining and blood (haematoxylin–eosin, ×400).