Broken and scattered sternal wires

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An 80-year old woman underwent coronary artery bypass graft surgery 10 years ago and developed sternal dehiscence; however, she strictly denied surgical repair. X-ray interestingly demonstrated that sternal wires were broken and scattered over the chest (Fig. 1). This is a rare example showing the effect of dehiscence to the sternal wires in the long term.

Figure 1: Sternal wires were broken and migrated over the chest.