Tension pneumocephalus: a rare complication after resection of a neurogenic tumour by thoracoscopic surgery

Juan Carlos Trujillo-Reyes*, Ramón Rami-Porta, Annie K. Navarro and Josep Belda-Sanchis

* Corresponding author. Department of Thoracic Surgery, Hospital Universitari Mutua Terrassa, Plaça Dr Robert 5, 08221 Terrassa, Barcelona, Spain. Tel: +34-937365050; fax: +34-937365059; e-mail: jctrujillo@icloud.com; jctrujillo@gmail.com (J. C. Trujillo-Reyes).

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A 30-year old man presented with back pain. Computed tomography (CT) (Fig. 1A) revealed a posterior mediastinal mass, which was removed by thoracoscopic excision (Fig. 1B). The diagnosis was schwannoma. Seventy-two hours later, he developed headaches and vomiting. The cranial CT (Fig. 1C) performed revealed pneumocephalus. His symptoms improved in 48 h with bed rest and oxygen. The patient was discharged asymptomatic on the 10th postoperative day.

Figure 1: (A) CT: posterior mediastinal mass without intraspinal extension, (B) thoracoscopic view of the excision of the mass and (C) cranial CT with bilateral frontal pneumocephalus and intraspinal dissection by air.