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

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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.