

A 65-year-old male patient with hoarseness of voice

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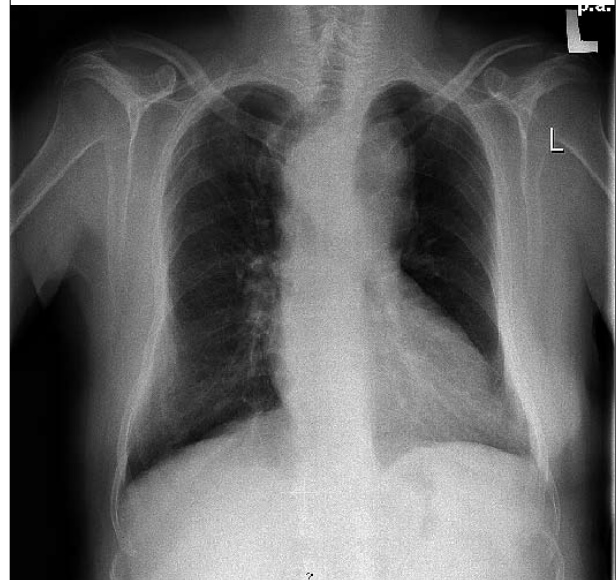
CASE REPORT

A 65-year-old male patient presented with hoarseness of voice lasting for several months. First he was examined by the otorhinolaryngologist of our hospital, who noticed cessation of movements of the left vocal cord. An X-ray of the chest was taken (*figure 1*) and the patient was referred to the pulmonologist. Bronchoscopy showed deviation of the trachea to the right, and small ostia with red swollen mucosa.

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

See page 308 for the answer to this photo quiz.

Figure 1. Trachea deviation to the right. Suspicion of a tumor in the mediastinum



ANSWER TO PHOTO QUIZ (ON PAGE 307)

A 65-YEAR-OLD MALE PATIENT WITH HOARSENESS OF VOICE

DISCUSSION

The X-ray of the chest suggested a mass in the mediastinum. A mass in the mediastinum may be caused by lymphoma, teratoma, thyroid or thymoma. However, in our patient the diagnosis of a thoracic aneurysm was made (*figure 2*). The hoarseness of voice is due to paralysis of the left recurrent laryngeal nerve caused by the thoracic aneurysm. This is called Ortner's syndrome.¹

DIAGNOSIS

The diagnosis in this patient is hoarseness of voice due to paralysis of the left recurrent laryngeal nerve caused by a thoracic aortic aneurysm. Ortner's syndrome (paralysis of the left recurrent laryngeal nerve) was first described as the result of atrial enlargement in mitral stenosis.²

Figure 2. High thoracic level cross-section showing a large thoracic aneurysm



REFERENCES

1. Annema JT, Brahim JJ, Rabe KF. A rare cause of Ortner's syndrome (cardiovocal hoarseness). *Thorax* 2004;59:636.
2. Ortner NI. Recurrenslähmung bei Mitralstenose. *Wien Klin Wochenschr* 1897;10:753-5.