Inadvertently Found Thoracic Ectopic Liver Confirmed without Surgery

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A 65-year-old female who had never smoked presented with an abnormal chest X-ray. She was an osteoporotic patient and had a chest X-ray as a check-up. She denied any respiratory symptoms including cough, sputum, dyspnoea, haemoptysis or pleuritic chest pain. There were no positive findings on physical examination.

Chest X-ray (fig. 1a, arrows) and a contrast-enhanced CT scan (fig. 1b) demonstrated a well-defined, homogeneous, pleural soft-tissue mass close to the right diaphragm. It was slightly enhanced, similar to that of a normal liver without any anatomic connection with subpleural, normal liver. A diagnostic CT-guided transthoracic

Fig. 1. Chest posterior-anterior radiography (a) and CT (b) showed a smooth, slightly enhanced, pleural soft-tissue mass close to the right diaphragm.
needle biopsy was conducted (fig. 1c). Tissue diagnosis revealed a normal hepatic tissue, suggesting an ectopic liver in the thoracic cavity (fig. 1d). The patient did not receive any further treatment and has remained stable without any evidence of complication.

Ectopic liver tissue is usually found in the abdomen, rarely involving the thoracic cavity. It is mostly congenital and asymptomatic, therefore incidentally found [1]. Although surgery is not always required, reported cases were almost always surgically resected due to misdiagnosis [2]. Meticulous diagnostic workup demonstrated in this case may help to avoid unnecessary surgical operation, considering its modest clinical importance.

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**References**
