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IMAGES IN INTENSIVE MEDICINE

Apparent pulmonary embolism in a patient with an ascending aortic aneurysm^{*}



Aparente tromboembolismo pulmonar en paciente con aneurisma de aorta ascendente

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A 78-year-old male with arterial hypertension and dyslipidemia presented due to recurrent sudden syncopal episodes. Upon arrival in the emergency room, he appeared to be in good condition, with a tendency towards hypertension, tachycardia and tachypnea, with good oxygen saturation. The laboratory tests indicated impaired renal function with moderate hyperlactacidemia and D dimer elevation. With the suspicion of pulmonary thromboembolism (PTE), a thoracic CT scan was requested (Fig. 1), which discarded PTE. The study was extended with CT angiography of the thoracic aorta (Fig. 2), which identified an 8.6-cm supravalvular aneurysmal dilatation of the ascending aorta (Fig. 3), with



Figure 1

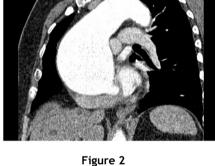




Figure 3

an important mass effect and affecting the trunk of the pulmonary artery (red arrow in Fig. 1). Elective surgery was performed for replacement of the aneurysm with a supracoronary aortic tube. The postoperative clinical course was good, and the patient was discharged.

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