

Asymptomatic Intercostal Schwannoma in a Patient with COVID-19: The First of Its Kind

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Abstract : Asymptomatic intra-thoracic neurogenic tumours are rare. Tumours arising from the intercostal nerves of the chest wall are exceedingly rare. This paper reports an incidental discovery of a neurogenic intercostal tumour while being investigated for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). A 54-year-old female underwent a thoracotomy and resection for an intercostal tumour. Pre-operative images showed an intrathoracic mass, and the biopsy revealed a schwannoma. The most common presenting symptom recorded in literature is chest pain; however, our case remained asymptomatic despite the size of the mass and thoracic area it occupied. After an extensive search of the literature, COVID-19 was found to have an influence on the development of certain cells in breast cancer. Hence there is a possibility that COVID-19 played a role in progressing the development of the schwannoma cells.

Keywords : thoracic surgery, intercostal schwannoma, chest wall oncology, COVID-19

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