

# A Rare Cause of Dysphagia

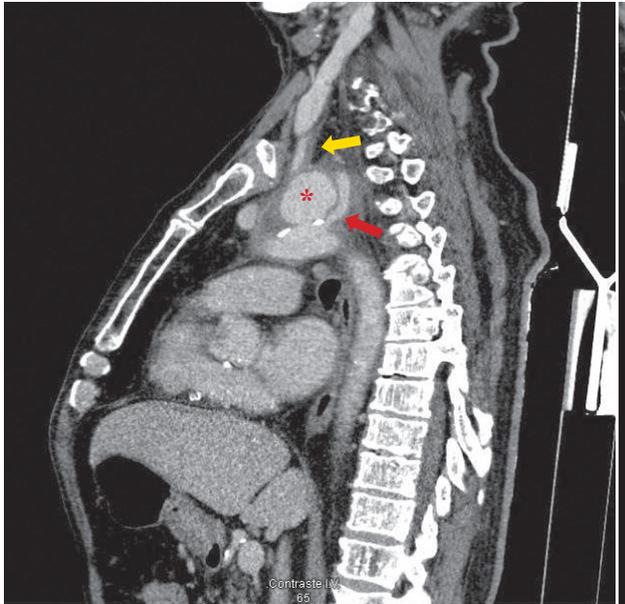
## Uma Causa Rara de Disfagia



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**Palavras-chave:** Aneurisma da Aorta Torácica; Aneurisma Infectado; Perturbações de Deglutição



**Figure 1** – Contrast-enhanced thoracic CT with sagittal reconstruction, demonstrating a saccular aortic arch aneurysm (asterisk), between the origin of the left carotid artery (yellow arrow) and the left subclavian artery (red arrow). It had a thickened and irregular wall, compatible with an infected aortic aneurysm, with no signs of rupture.

A 77-year-old man presented with a 2-week history of dysphonia and dysphagia, with concomitant anorexia, sporadic fever, and weight loss. Laboratory studies revealed neutrophilic leukocytosis and a high C-reactive protein level, and chest radiography showed left mediastinal widening. Computed tomography was performed and depicted a saccular aortic arch aneurysm, having a thickened and irregular wall, with extension to the left carotid artery (Figs. 1, 2).

A mycotic aortic aneurysm is an aortic aneurysm due to infection, most commonly involving bacteria.<sup>1,2</sup> It is a rare condition, with an estimated incidence of 0.6% to 2.0% of all aortic aneurysms.<sup>3</sup> They are associated with significant morbidity and mortality and prognosis depends on the presence of rupture or sepsis and the virulence of the microorganism.<sup>4</sup>

This patient underwent carotid-carotid bypass and surgi-



**Figure 2** – Three-dimensional CT reconstructions of the mycotic aneurysm were performed to plan surgical treatment

cal repair of the mycotic aneurysm. He completed a 6-week course of metronidazole and vancomycin and his recovery was unremarkable.

### AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION:

AR: Acquisition of data; literature review, draft of the paper.

GF: Image processing; critical review of the paper and of the literature.

### PROTECTION OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS

The authors declare that the procedures were followed according to the regulations established by the Clinical Research and Ethics Committee and to the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association updated in 2013.

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#### **DATA CONFIDENTIALITY**

The authors declare having followed the protocols in use at their working center regarding patients' data publication.

#### **INFORMED CONSENT**

Obtained.

#### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

All authors report no competing interests.

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