

# Symptomatic huge diaphragmatic hernia

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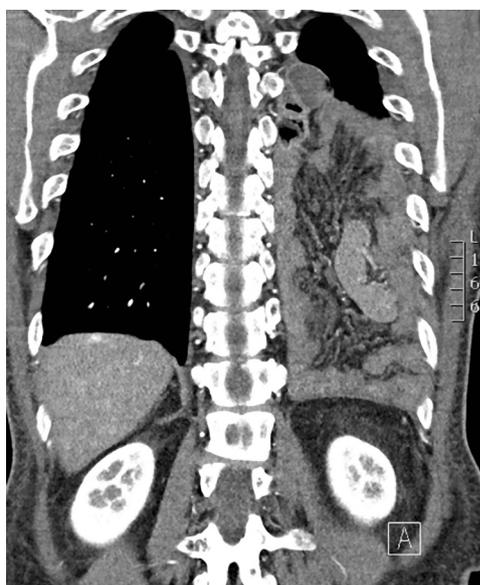
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## DESCRIPTION

The present images refer to a 54-year-old patient with cholangitis due to biliary stones.

He underwent distal oesophagectomy and total gastrectomy with Roux-en-Y reconstruction for



**Figure 1** CT scan (coronal view) showing the herniation of the small bowel occupying almost all of the left hemithorax.



**Figure 2** CT scan (axial view) with the evidence of the large diaphragmatic defect along with the mesenteric vessels.

## Patient's perspective

In the end, I was more worried for the hernia than for the biliary stones. It scared me a lot. I would like to thank the Niguarda Hospital for taking care of me.

## Learning points

- ▶ Incidental huge diaphragmatic hernias in adults are rare occurrences.
- ▶ Huge diaphragmatic hernia is a rare cause of endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography failure.

a tumour of oesophageal-gastric junction 5 years before.

An endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography was attempted but it failed because of the impossibility to access the duodenal pouch due to abnormal rounds of the scope caused by a suspected bowel's hernia in the thorax.

A CT scan (figures 1 and 2) was then performed, and it showed the presence, in retrocardiac position, of a massive diaphragmatic herniation of the small bowel,<sup>1,2</sup> along with mesenteric vessels, which reached the apex of the left hemithorax.

This condition is completely asymptomatic, and the patient is now scheduled for preoperative evaluation.

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