

: CT¹²

(median sternotomy)

0.5%-5%

가 ,

CT

가

CT

(median sternotomy)

가

0.5%-5%

가

CT가

(5).

CT

가

Serry (1)

(a)

(sterile serosanguineous discharge)

(empyema)

(6).

(stable sternum); (b)

(unstable sternum); (c)

(medias-

tinitis)

(sternal dehiscence); (d)

(superficial wound

infection); (e)

(subcutaneous infection),

; (f)

가

(pectoralis major muscle)

(rectus abdominis muscle)

6가

(muscle flap)

(transposition)

가

(a, b)

(omental flap)

(c, d)

24%

(e, f) 70%

(1).

가

(ery-

cartilage)

(intercostal muscle)

(costal

thema),

가 (leukocytosis)

(approximation)

(3).

가

(7).

(draining sinus tract)

(contamination)

5

7

가

(local-

¹²

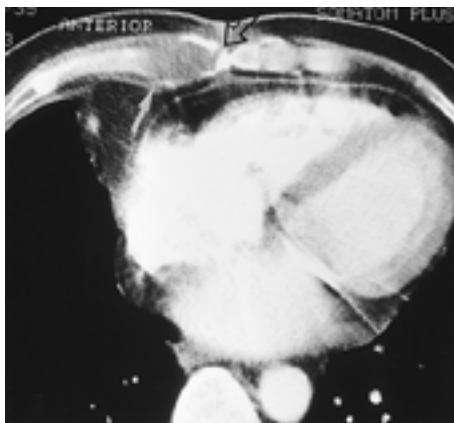
1999 1 6

1999 3 2

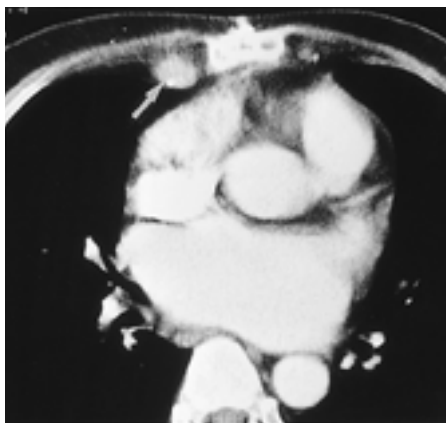
ization)
가

5 7

(pus drainage) (2).
(cellulitis), (uptake)
(activity)
(radionuclide)
가 가
(8).
3 CT 2
(step-off), (im-
(3).
mm
paction)
(1). CT
CT sinography가
CT
(Fig. 1).
(9).
(periosteal elevation)
가
(bone destruction)
(7). CT
(union)
(normal variation)
(dem-
가 (3). ineralization), (erosion),
(periosteal new bone formation), (sclerosis),
(instability) "click"
(5) (Fig. 3, 4).
가
가 (Fig. 2).
(radiolucency)
가 가



A



B

Fig. 1. 40-year-old man with acute peri-
chondritis. He had had mitral valve re-
placement(MVR) 40 days before and
was suffering from substernal pain and
discharge at wound site. Postoperative
pathologic diagnosis was acute peri-
chondritis.

A. Postcontrast CT scan shows a
bulging low-attenuation lesion (arrow)
surrounding the costal cartilage. Right
half of the sternum (open arrow) shows
bony destruction.

B. A scan at slightly upper level shows
an enlarged ipsilateral internal mam-
mary lymph node(arrow).

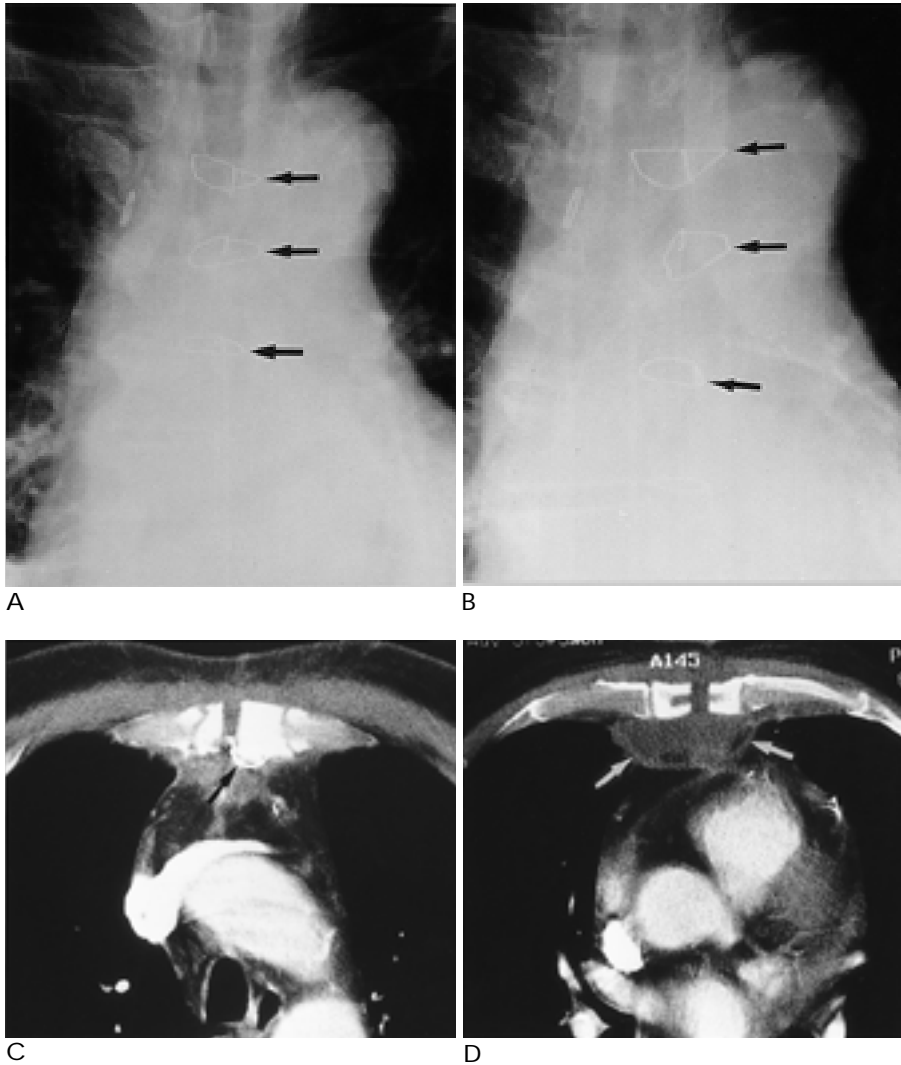


Fig. 2. 64-year-old man with sternal dehiscence and retrosternal abscess. He had had coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) 13 days before, and complained of right chest wall bulging. *Staphylococcus epidermidis* was isolated from the abscess.

A. The wires used for sternal closure (arrows) are located in the midline of anterior chest wall on chest radiograph.

B. Follow-up chest radiograph shows disruption of wire alignment and change of contour of sternal wires (arrows).

C. CT scan at the level of lower trachea shows dehiscence of sternum and dislodged wire (arrow) from right half of the sternum. Soft tissue attenuation intervenes sternal gap and extends to retrosternal space.

D. CT scan at the lower level than (c) shows localized fluid collection posterior to the sternum (arrow).

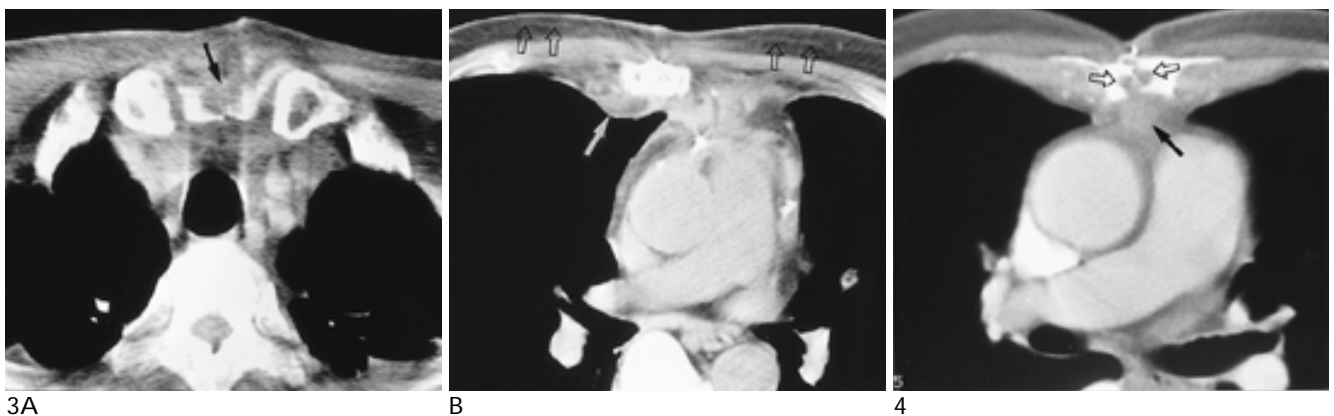


Fig. 3. 64-year-old man with osteomyelitis of the sternum. The patient had had CABG 40 days before, and was suffering from fever, discharge, and substernal pain. No drainage procedure was performed between the initial operation and the CT exam.

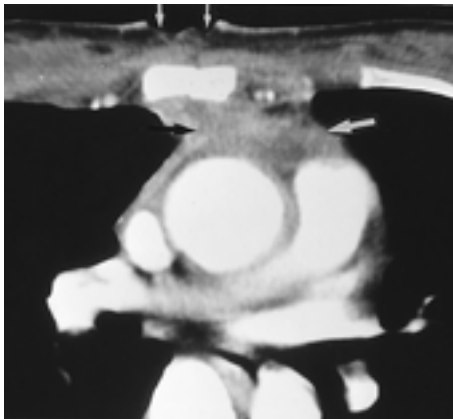
A. The precontrast CT scan shows bony destruction of sternum (arrow). Soft tissue density replaces anterior portion of the sternum.

B. CT scan at 5cm lower level than (a) shows posteriorly bulging peristernal soft tissue lesion (arrow) in anterior chest wall. Note also inflammatory thickening of retromammary fascia (open arrows).

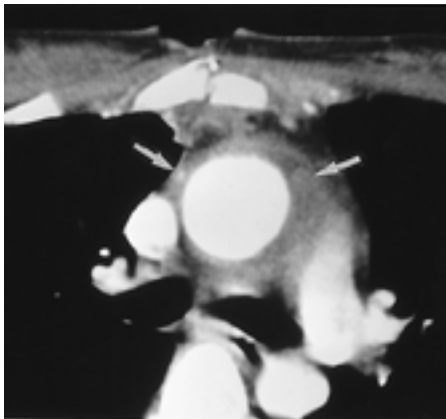
Fig. 4. 61-year-old man with osteomyelitis of the sternum and retrosternal abscess. He had had mitral valve replacement 79 days before.

CT scan shows concave smooth bony defect at the sternotomy site (open arrows). The anterior mediastinal fat is partially obliterated by infiltration of soft tissue (arrow).

가 , (erythrocyte sedimentation rate)
가, , (2).
CT
(primary heart disease)
CT
(2) (Fig. 5).
(pneumomedi-
(localized fluid 가
astinum),
collection),
(mass effect),
(ectopic gas), Goodman (3)
4
(6). Jolles
가 93%
(4)
CT Jolles
가 (2, 3, 5, 6). 2- 2
3 (soft
tissue infiltration), CT



A

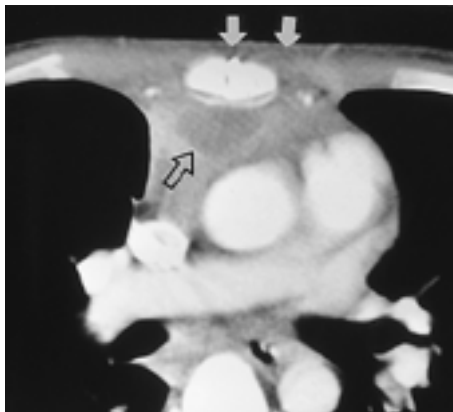


B

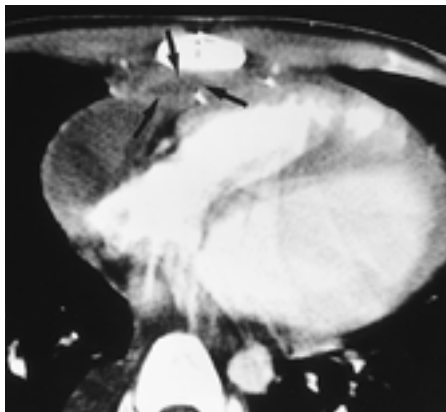
Fig. 5. 24-year-old female with post-sternotomy mediastinitis. She had had aortic valve replacement 12 days before, and was suffering from postoperative persistent fever and wound dehiscence.

A. Postcontrast CT scan shows obliteration of mediastinal fat with soft tissue attenuation (large arrows). Note also skin defect in anterior chest wall (small arrows).

B. CT scan obtained at 2cm upper than (a) shows obliteration of mediastinal fat surrounding ascending aorta (arrows).



A



B

Fig. 6. 22-year-old man with poststernotomy abscess. The patient had had closure of ventricular septal defect 32 days before. He was suffering from persistent pus drainage at sternotomy site and high fever.

A. Postcontrast CT shows diffuse edematous change (arrows) of soft tissue in chest wall. The sternotomy site shows complete union. Note localized fluid collection (open arrow) totally obliterating anterior mediastinal fat. Collection of pus was confirmed on reoperation.

B. The fluid collection (arrows) extends

to anterior mediastinum at the level of cardiac ventricular chamber.

(4, 6). (6) (Fig. 6). ,
 가
 90% 가
 (Pseudomonas aeruginosa) ,
 (staphylococcus aureus) (10).
 . CT
 . CT
 가
 CT
 (, ,)
 (calcified tract) (Fig. 7).
 가
 CT

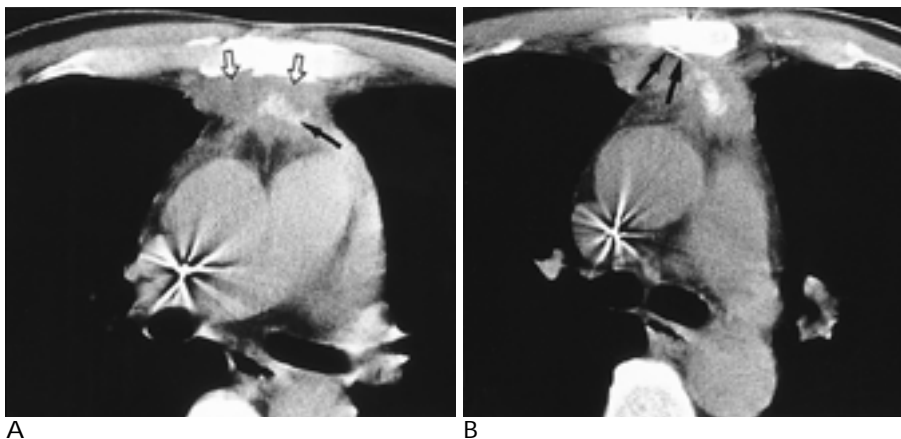


Fig. 7. 56-year-old man with retrosternal calcified tract. He had had aortic valve replacement 1-year before, and was suffering from oozing from an orifice on the anterior surface of his left lower chest wall. He also had leukocytosis.

A. Precontrast CT scan shows no abnormality in skin or subcutaneous fat except postoperative scar. The sternum shows complete union. The anterior mediastinal fat is partially obliterated by soft tissue (open arrow), in which a calcified area (arrow) is seen.

B. The calcified lesion was seen at multiple contiguous levels (not shown), and at the upper level than (A), the lesion directs to the posterior surface of the sternum (arrows). The lesion was confirmed as calcified fistulous tract on re-operation.

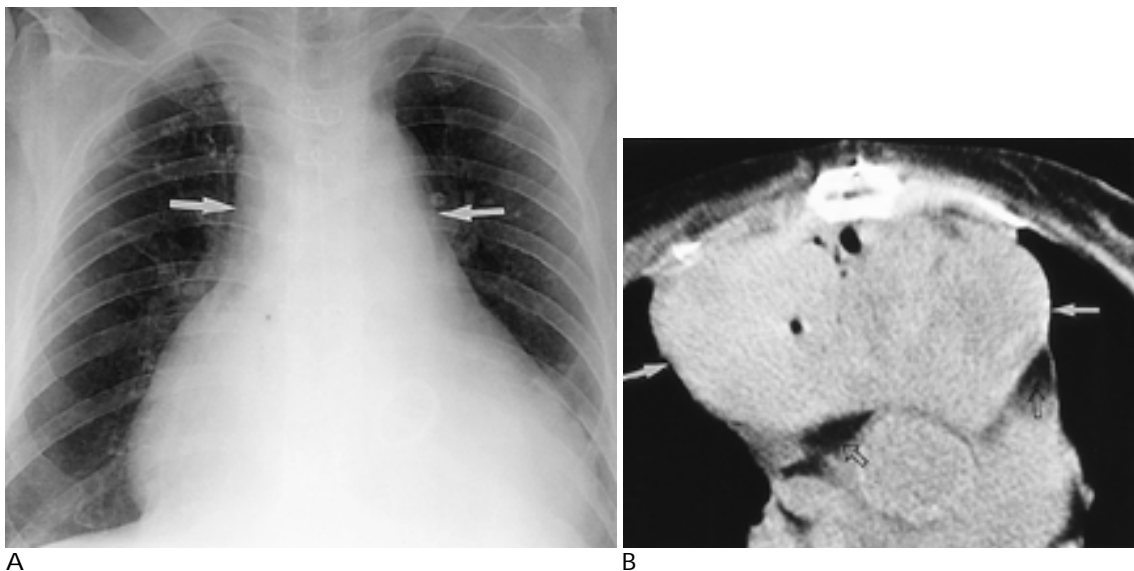


Fig. 8. 50-year-old woman with huge mediastinal hematoma. She had had mitral valve replacement 30 days before, and was suffering from dyspnea.

A. Chest radiograph shows widening of the mediastinum (arrows).

B. Precontrast CT scan shows no abnormality in subcutaneous fat, and the sternum. Hematoma appears as a huge, well-defined heterogeneously hyperdense soft tissue mass (arrows) in the anterior mediastinum. Despite the huge mass, anterior mediastinal fat is only partially obliterated. Note intact portions of anterior mediastinal fat (open arrows). Multiple air bubbles are probably due to previous tube drainage.

(>30 HU) (Fig. 8).

(3).

1. Serry C, Bleck P, Javid H, et al. Sternal wound complications. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 1980; 80:861-867
2. Kay HR, Goodman LR, Teplick SK, Mundith ED. Use of computed tomography to assess mediastinal complications after median sternotomy. *Ann Thorac Surg* 1983; 36:706-714
3. Goodman LR, Kay HR, Teplick SK, Mundth ED. Complications of median sternotomy: computed tomographic evaluation. *AJR* 1983; 141:225-230

4. Jolles H, Henry DA, Roberson JP, Cole TJ, Spratt JA. Mediastinitis following median sternotomy: CT findings. *Radiology* 1996; 210:463-466
5. Templeton PA, Fishman EK. CT evaluation of poststernotomy complications. *AJR* 1992; 159:45-50
6. Carrol CL, Jeffrey RB, Federle MP, Vernacchia FS. CT evaluation of mediastinal infections. *J Comput Assist Tomogr* 1987; 11:449-454
7. Carter AR, Sostman HD, Curtis AM, Swett HA. Thoracic alterations after cardiac surgery. *AJR* 1983; 140:475-483
8. Smith PW, Peterson RJ, Ferlic RM. Gallium scan in sternal osteomyelitis. *AJR* 1979; 132:840-841
9. Makada K, Oda Y, Terai T, Fujimori M. Chest pain in a patient after median sternotomy. *Masui* 1995; 44:272-274
10. Topalov I, Lazarov Z, Chalukov P, Vasilev B. Suppurative complications following sternotomy. *Khirurgiia (Sofia)* 1990; 43(6):4-7

J Korean Radiol Soc 1999;40:1147-1152

Complications of Median Sternotomy: CT Findings¹

Young Ho Choi, M.D., Jin Mo Goo, M.D., Joon Beom Seo, M.D., Jae Woo Song, M.D.²,
Dong Kyung Lee, M.D., Daehee Han, M.D., Jung-Gi Im, M.D.

¹Department of Radiology, and the Institute of Radiation Medicine, Seoul National University College of Medicine

²Department of Radiology Seoul City Boramae Hospital

In heart surgery or surgery for mediastinal mass, median sternotomy is the most common surgical approach. The frequency of complications after sternotomy is very low (0.5%-5%), but once a complication develops, the high risk involved results in high mortality; early detection and treatment are thus essential. In determining the presence and extent of complications after sternotomy, chest radiography and clinical findings are of limited usefulness, though for detecting the existence of complications and evaluating the extent of lesions, CT is very useful. We illustrate the clinical characteristics and CT findings of complications after median sternotomy.

Index words : Sternum, abnormalities
Mediastinum, CT

Address reprint requests to : Jung-Gi Im, M.D., Department of Radiology, Seoul National University College of Medicine.
28, Yongon-dong, Chongno-gu, Seoul 110-744, Korea.
Tel. 82-2-760-2584 Fax. 82-2-743-6385