IMAGES

Chest hematoma in a patient on therapeutic anticoagulation with enoxaparin

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An 84 year old man, anticoagulated with enoxaparin, experienced sudden pain and the appearance of a mass in the left pectoral region with rapid increase in volume after sudden mobilization of the left arm (Figure 1a). Suspecting pectoral hematoma, a blood test was made which showed an 8% decrease in hematocrit. Vascular chest computed tomography (CT) scan confirmed the diagnosis of left breast muscle hematoma (Figure 1b). We detected three points of active bleeding which were selectively embolized, resulting in gradual improvement of pain and mass volume. The use of enoxaparin as anticoagulant is associated with bleeding complications which can be serious. The risk increases in elderly patients with liver or renal disease, and when used in conjunction with antiplatelets or other anticoagulants.



Figure 1. Macroscopic appearance of pectoral hematoma (A) and (B) vascular CT showing a site of active bleeding (arrow).

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