Medical Image of the Week: Pulmonary Metastases of Rectal Cancer

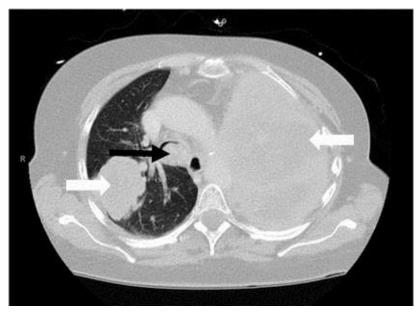


Figure 1. CT scan of the chest shows bilateral masses (white arrows), left sided pleural effusion and endobronchial mass (black arrow).

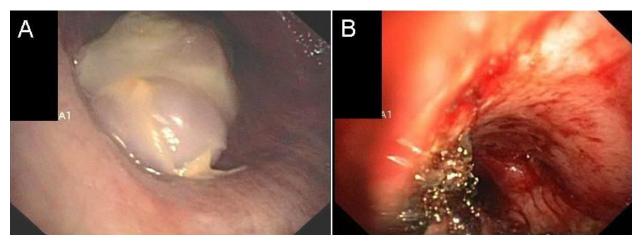


Figure 2: Endobronchial mass (A) before and (B) after removal.

A 51-year-old woman with known rectal cancer currently receiving systemic chemotherapy presented with 2 weeks of worsening dyspnea on exertion. The day prior to admission she developed persistent inspiratory and expiratory wheeze. CT scan demonstrated right main stem endobronchial mass and a heterogeneous mass comprising the entire left hemithorax (Figure 1). Flexible bronchoscopy demonstrated a fungating mass at the carina extending down both main stems (Figure 2). The mass

was snared and removed with cryotherapy and pathology was consistent with metastatic rectal adenocarcinoma.

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