Late diagnosis and treatment: blunt traumatic rupture of the aortic root

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A 48-year-old man was referred for, an initially unrecognized, contained aortic root rupture three months after a vehicular accident. Echocardiography showed aortic insufficiency secondary to noncoronary cusp prolapse (Fig. 1). Computed tomography demonstrated an aortic root injury (Fig. 2A), which was confirmed intraoperatively (Fig. 2B). He underwent aortic root replacement.

Figure 1. (A) Transesophageal echocardiogram demonstrated a pseudoaneurysm of the aortic root (arrows). (B) Prolapse of the noncoronary cusp was identified which resulted in massive aortic insufficiency (arrow)

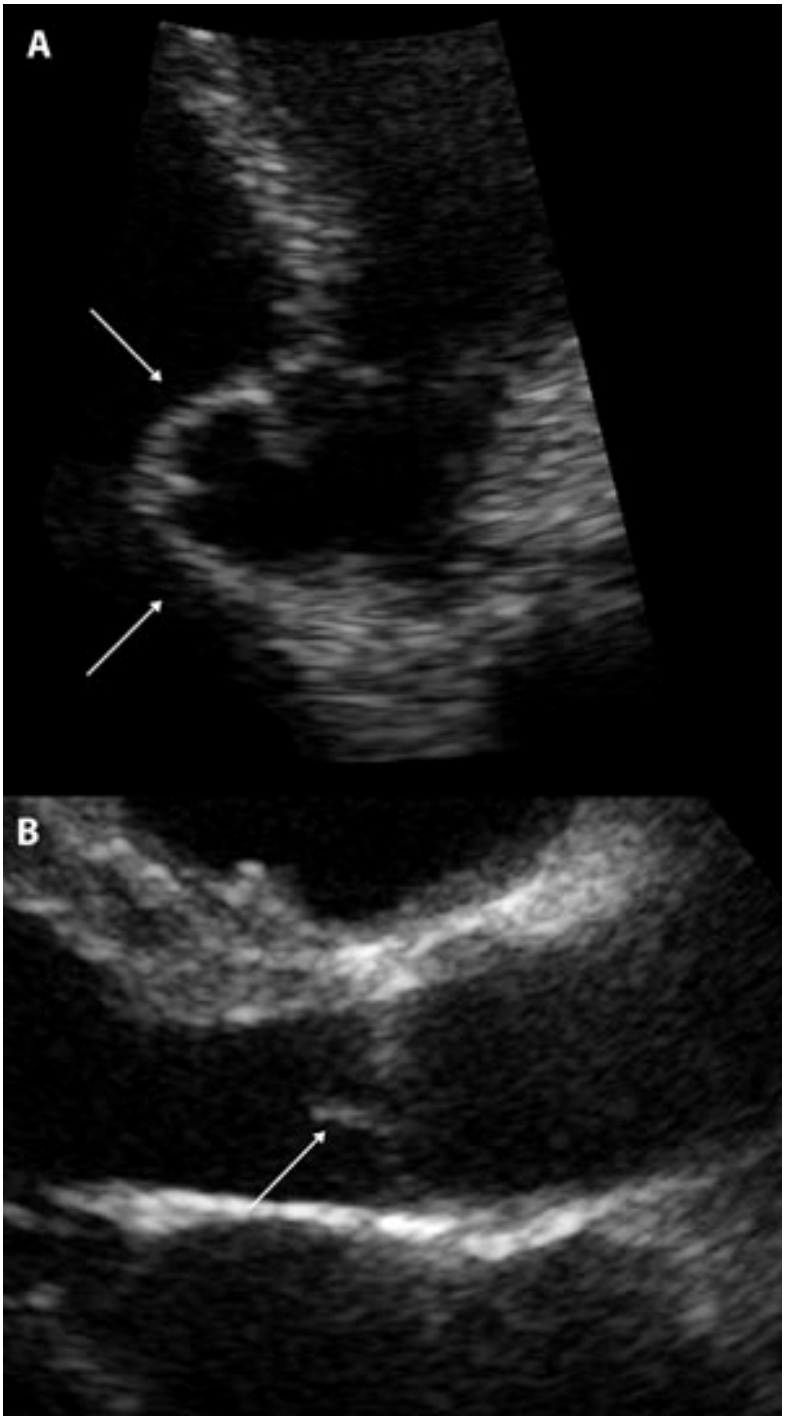
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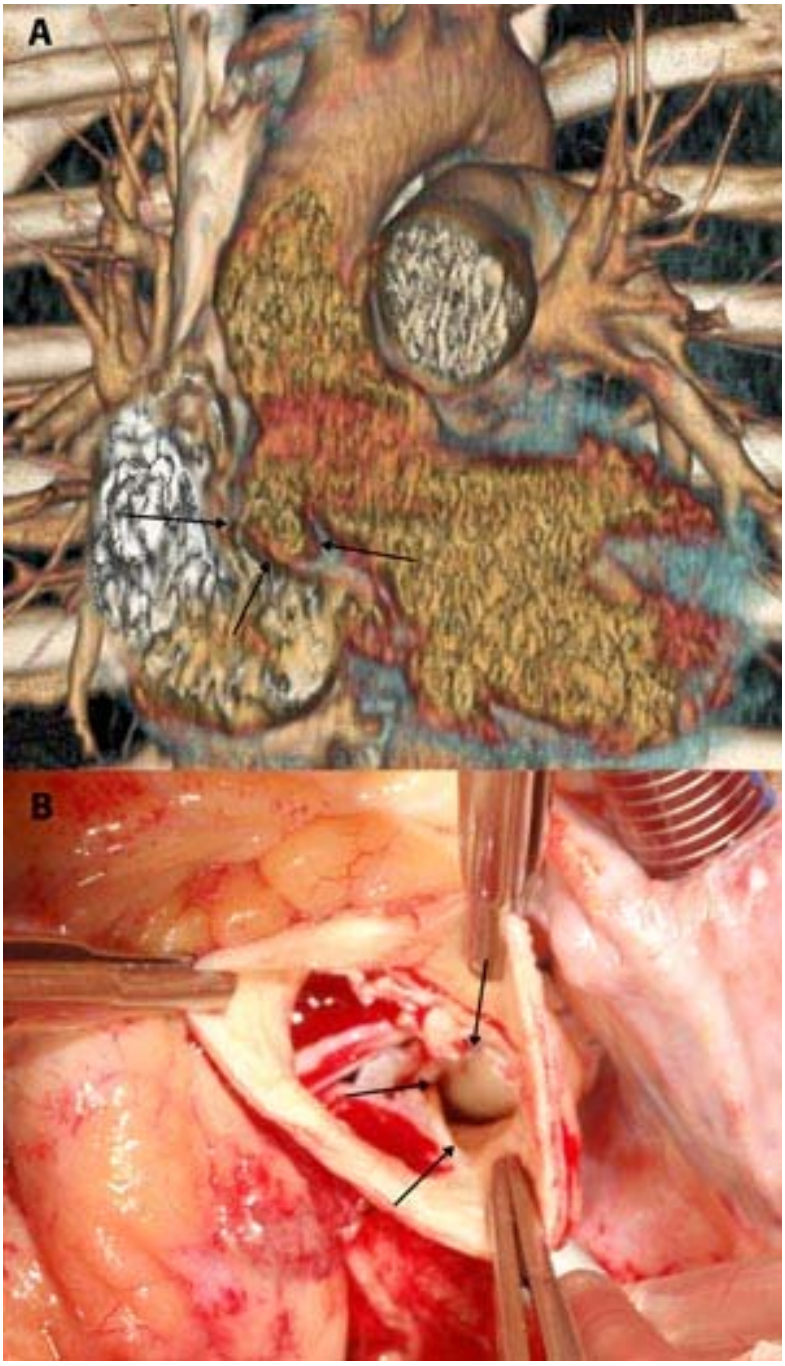
Figure 2. (A) Three-dimensional reconstruction of contrast enhanced chest computed tomography showed a contrast filled cavity communicating with the aortic root (arrows). (B) Intraoperative photograph of the aortic root illustrating a wide orifice of the traumatic pseudoaneurysm (arrows).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