


## Accessory V<sup>6</sup> during thoracoscopic middle lobectomy: “an uncomfortable presence”

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### Keywords

Lung cancer, lung injury, thoracic surgery.

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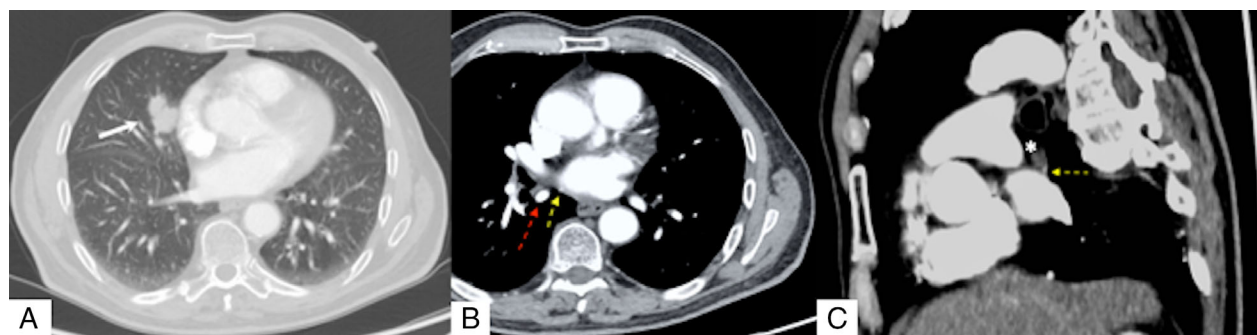
### Clinical Image

A 78-year-old man was admitted to our unit for surgical treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) arising from the middle lobe (Fig. 1A). A thoracoscopic middle lobectomy was performed by a standardized three-port anterior approach. During the surgical procedure, the posterior mediastinal pleura was divided and a supernumerary venous branch draining the superior segment of the right

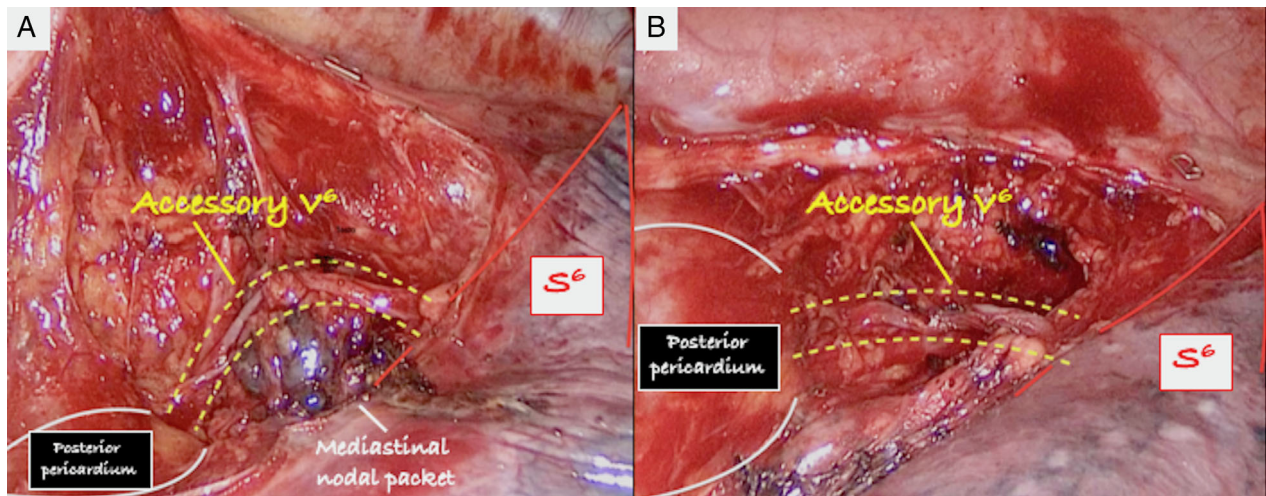
### Key message

The identification of the accessory vein draining the superior segment of the right lower lobe (accessory V<sup>6</sup>), during the posterior mediastinal lymph node dissection, can help avoid operative complications.

lower lobe into the left atrium (accessory V<sup>6</sup>) was accidentally discovered near the level 7 nodal packet (Fig. 2A). The vein was preserved (Fig. 2B) and required a careful mediastinal lymph node dissection to avoid annoying operative bleeding due to vessel injury and blood flow from the left atrium. The anomalous vessel was retrospectively identified on chest computed tomography (CT) scan (Fig. 1B, C).



**Figure 1.** Chest computed tomography (CT) scan. (A) Lung cancer located in the middle lobe (white arrow). (B) Mediastinal window image shows vein (red arrow) and accessory vein (accessory V<sup>6</sup>) (yellow arrow) draining the superior segment of the right lower lobe. (C) Sagittal multiplanar reconstructed (MPR) projection shows accessory V<sup>6</sup> (yellow arrow) adjacent to mediastinal lymphadenopathy (white asterisk).



**Figure 2.** Intraoperative view during mediastinal lymph node dissection. (A) Accessory vein (accessory V<sup>6</sup>) draining the superior segment of the right lower lobe (S<sup>6</sup>) into the left atrium, displaced by posterior mediastinal lymph nodes. (B) Course of the accessory V<sup>6</sup> along the posterior mediastinum after lymph node exeresis.

### Disclosure Statement

Appropriate written informed consent was obtained for publication of this case report and accompanying images.