

## IMAGE IN CARDIOLOGY

# Abdominal aortic aneurysm – Characterization by three-dimensional computed tomography angiography



## Aneurisma da aorta abdominal – Caracterização por angiotomografia computadorizada tridimensional

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Abdominal aortic aneurysm is a relatively common condition associated with well-defined cardiovascular risk factors. A 74-year-old Caucasian man with a 100-pack-year history of cigarette smoking and generalized atherosclerotic disease manifested by symptomatic carotid artery disease and peripheral artery disease presented to our department for assessment of severe abdominal pain. Physical examination was unremarkable, except for a tender and pulsatile periumbilical mass. A contrast-enhanced computed tomography scan showed an aortic aneurysm with circumferential mural thrombosis extending from below the renal arteries to the bifurcation of the common iliac arteries, without evidence of rupture or dissection (Figure 1A and B). Three-dimensional angiographic reconstruction revealed a complex bilobular aneurysm, the proximal and distal segments measuring 6.6 cm×5.6 cm and 7.5 cm×6.8 cm, respectively, in transverse diameters (Figure 2A and B; Supplementary Data, Videos 1 and 2). The patient underwent

elective surgery three months later, with successful aorto-aortic graft insertion.

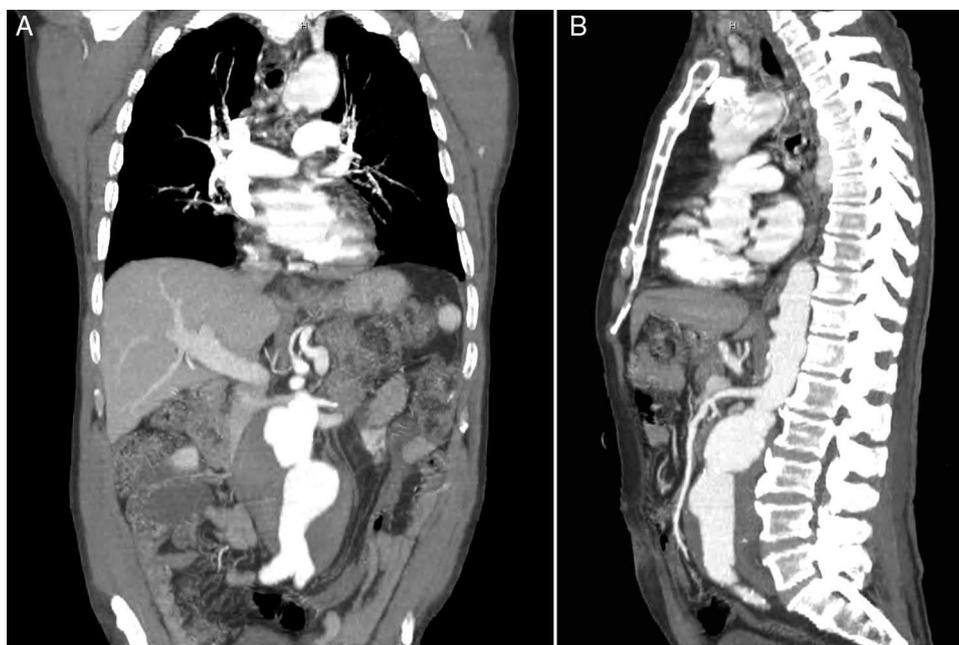
This case illustrates the usefulness of three-dimensional computed tomography angiography in the assessment of the location and anatomy of aortic aneurysms, providing a valuable non-invasive tool for selecting the appropriate surgical procedure. The rare morphology of this aneurysm, in particular, resembles that of a human fetus in the uterus, giving it an unusual and curious radiological appearance.

### Ethical disclosures

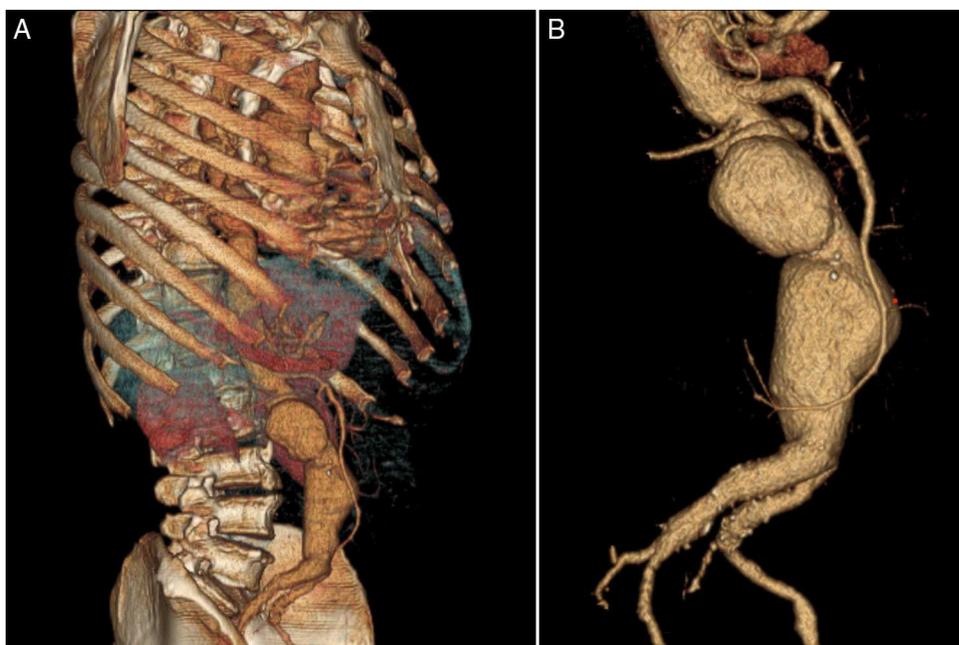
**Protection of human and animal subjects.** The authors declare that no experiments were performed on humans or animals for this study.

**Confidentiality of data.** The authors declare that they have followed the protocols of their work center on the publication of patient data.

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**Figure 1** Contrast-enhanced computed tomography image of the abdominal aortic aneurysm in coronal view (A) and sagittal view (B).



**Figure 2** Three-dimensional computed tomography reconstruction of the abdominal aortic aneurysm (A) and corresponding volume-rendered angiography in detail (B).

**Right to privacy and informed consent.** The authors declare that no patient data appear in this article.

### Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at [doi:10.1016/j.repc.2014.06.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.repc.2014.06.008).