A Rare Complication of a CT-Guided Biopsy

Aruna Turaka, MD,* and Rosaleen B. Parsons, MD†

CASE SUMMARY

A 68-year-old gentleman presented with severe abdominal discomfort which led to the incidental finding of a right upper lobe mass. A positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) was then performed which demonstrated increased metabolic activity limited to the peripheral mass. A CT-guided biopsy (see Figure 1) was performed with the pathology consistent with a poorly differentiated non-small cell lung cancer. The tumor increased in size from 2.3 × 1.9 cm on the CT-guided biopsy scan only 5 weeks later. A repeat diagnostic CT with contrast was recommended and performed now demonstrating the mass to be 8.8 × 5.9 cm. As seen in Figure 2, there is direct extension of the tumor outside the chest wall in the exact tract of the needle (see Figure 1). This is a rare complication for patients with lung cancer,1 which is more commonly seen in aggressive malignancies.

REFERENCE