

POST-CARDIOTOMY BRONCHOPERICARDIAL FISTULA

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We report a case of a 65 years-old woman submitted to an aortic and mitral valve replacement with mechanical prosthesis (St Jude 19mm and St Jude 21mm, respectively), who developed a postoperative cardiogenic shock, with necessity of mechanical support with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and intra-aortic pump balloon.

The patient developed a nosocomial pneumonia, subsequently complicated by an empyema and

bronchopleural fistula.

In the fifteenth postoperative day, cardiac auscultation revealed a crunching sound synchronous with the heartbeat, compatible with Hamman's Sign. Chest x-ray showed a pneumopericardium, further confirmed with a chest computed tomography. Postoperative pneumopericardium is a rare condition, probably caused by a bronchopericardial fistula in this case.

