

FLUOROSCOPY-GUIDED RESECTION OF RIB OSTEOPHYTE

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A 45-year-old male presented with recurring atypical left hemithorax pain for over 6 months, not related to movement. A chest radiograph showed an opacity near the left 7th rib. On a chest computed tomography scan with a three-dimensional reconstruction (figure 1) this finding appeared to be an osteochondroma. Given the size and location, we performed a fluoroscopy-guided excision of the lesion. Using an intramuscular injection needle, we located the lesion in the fluoroscopy scan,

then made an incision at this location and dissected until we reached the rib. We observed what appeared to be an osteophyte, growing from the anterolateral margin of the rib onto the intercostal space, with its distal end near the neurovascular bundle of the 6th rib. We then cut the osteophyte at its base (figure 2). Pathology showed a 2,5cm fragment of trabecular bone. Postoperative period was uneventful and the patient reports pain resolution.

