Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Post-traumatic intrapulmonary rupture of the pulmonary artery

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A 64-year-old woman was admitted for chest trauma with unstable hemodynamics. CT scan revealed an extravasation of the contrast medium into a large intrapulmonary blood collection. Because of the persistence of hemodynamic instability, major pulmonary vascular injury was suspected and an emergency thoracotomy was performed. The presumed diagnosis of rupture of the basal arterial trunk was confirmed at operation and a left lower lobectomy was successfully performed (Fig. 1).

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Fig. 1. (a and b) Contrast enhanced CT scan showing a rupture of the left basal arterial trunk as the source of bleeding with secondary formation of a large ($4 \times 9$ cm) intrapulmonary blood collection. Arrow SA: superior segmental artery of the left lower lobe. Arrow BA: basal arterial trunk. Arrow CM: extravasation of the contrast medium. Arrow BC: intrapulmonary blood collection. Arrow BT: branches of the basal arterial trunk.

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