



Image of the Month

Breast Nodule due to Empyema Necessitatis[☆]

Nódulo mamario por empiema necessitatis

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Fig. 1

An 80 year old woman with a prior history of right pneumonectomy 40 years before for tuberculosis presented a tumour in the right breast of 3 month duration. On physical exam a 4 cm nodule was seen in the external interquadrant line, that was painful and fixed to the pectoral muscle plane. Fig. 1 shows a collection in the breast parenchyma that communicates through the thoracic wall to the right pleural cavity. A diagnosis of empyema necessitatis was made and the patient was operated on by the Thoracic Surgery Department: a drainage was performed by thoracostomy. Bacterial cultures showed opportunistic flora.

Diagnosis: breast nodule due to empyema necessitatis.

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