

SUMMARY

Normal anatomy of the mediastinum, technique of CT examination, pathology, clinical presentation of the patients and CT findings of thoracic aortic diseases were discussed.

In this study 14 cases with clinical or plain radiographic findings suggestive of thoracic aortic disease. They were 12 males and 2 females with their ages ranged from 6 to 62 years.

Most cases were subjected to full clinical examination and plain chest radiography (postero-anterior and lateral views) followed by CT scan with dynamic contrast or helical study for all cases. Supplemental radiographic technique as barium study was also used.

Thoracic aortic diseases are classified into three groups:

- Aortic atherosclerosis, 2 cases: atheromatous dilatation of the thoracic aorta.
- Thoracic aortic aneurysms, 9 cases: comprised cases of descending thoracic aortic aneurysm (2 cases), ascending aortic aneurysm, aortic dissection (4 cases) and left subclavian aneurysm (2 cases).
- Congenital anomalies of the thoracic aorta, 3 cases:
 - Comprised corrected transposition of the great vessels, right aortic arch and aortic coarctation.