66 year-old male presents with chest pain

Ryan Joyce, MD
Prominent extrapleural adipose tissue
Nonspecific “pleural” thickening
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CT demonstrates fat density thickening in the pleural region.
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Increased extrapleural adipose tissue

Usually a benign finding which can mimic pleural thickening on chest radiography.

- CT clearly depicts the extra fat density within the extrapleural space.
  - Normal extrapleural fat thickness is 2-3mm. In this case it is up to 1cm thick in some areas.

Increased extrapleural adipose deposition can occur in obesity, chronic pleural inflammation, neoplasm, and chronic glucocorticoid use.

- In the absence of soft tissue masses or inflammatory changes, this is a benign finding.

Mimickers include posterior diaphragmatic defect and lipoma.

CT usually needed to make the distinction between benign and malignant causes.
References