

61-year-old female with “facial swelling” refractory to antibiotics and steroids

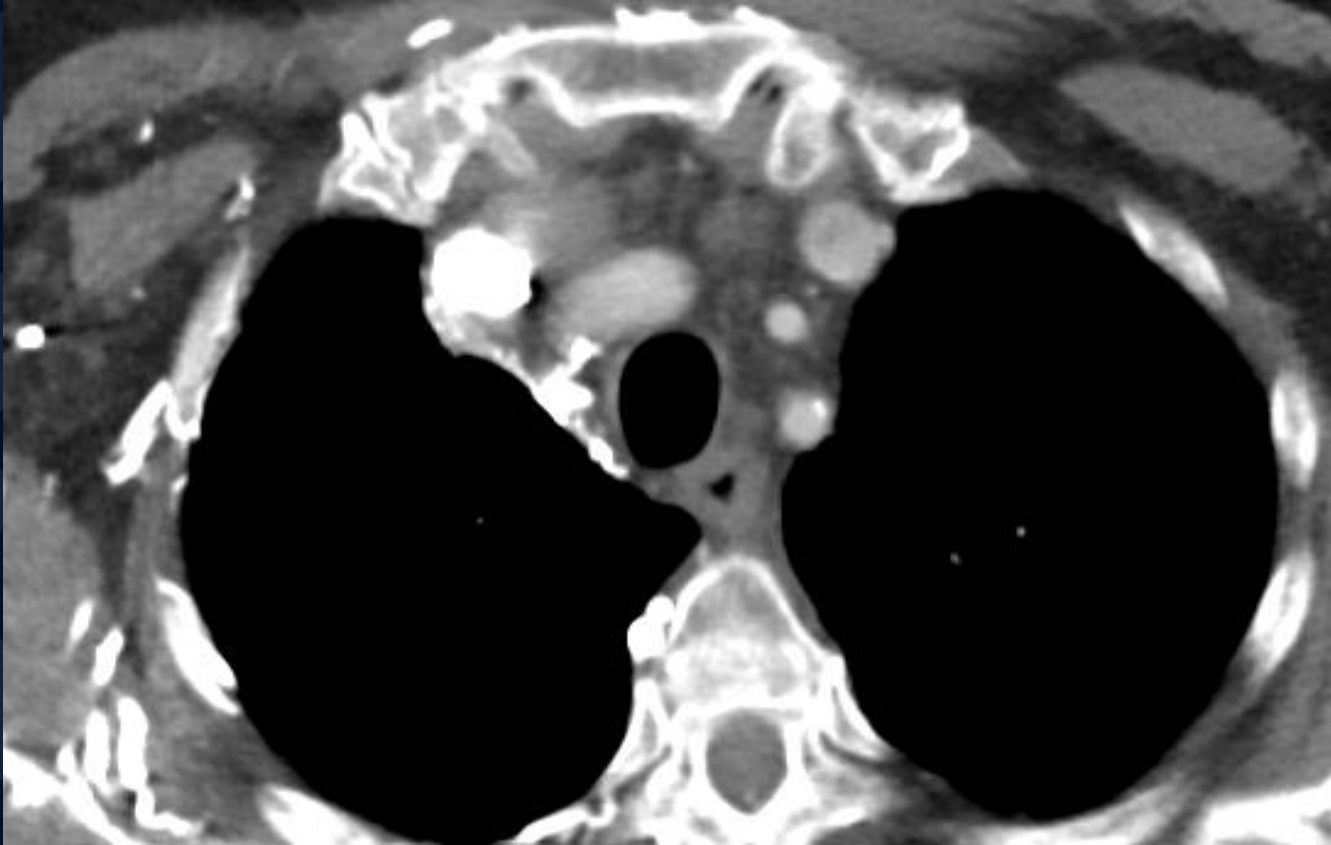
Megan Grammatico, MS3

Brad Kincaid, MD

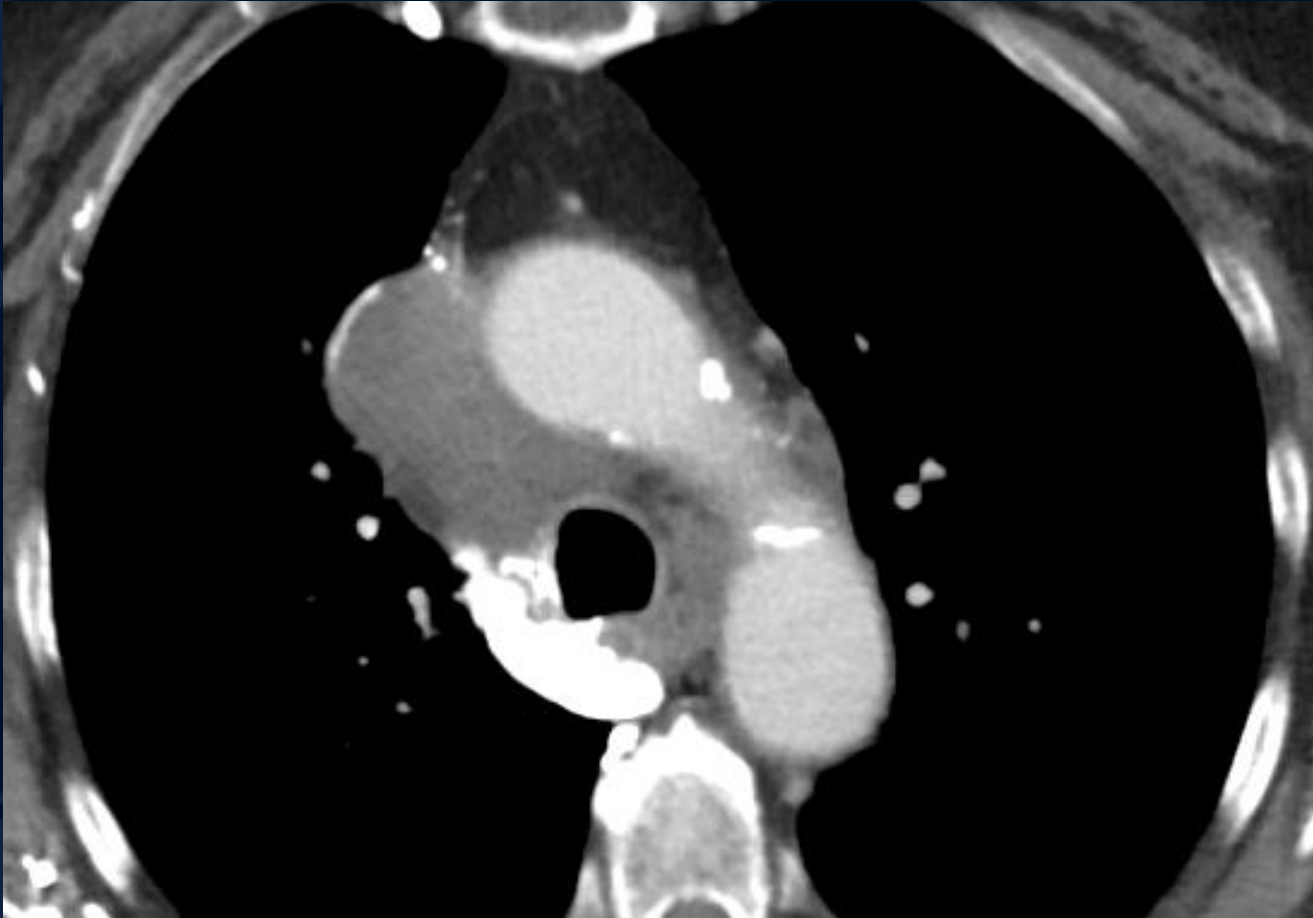
Edward Gillis, DO



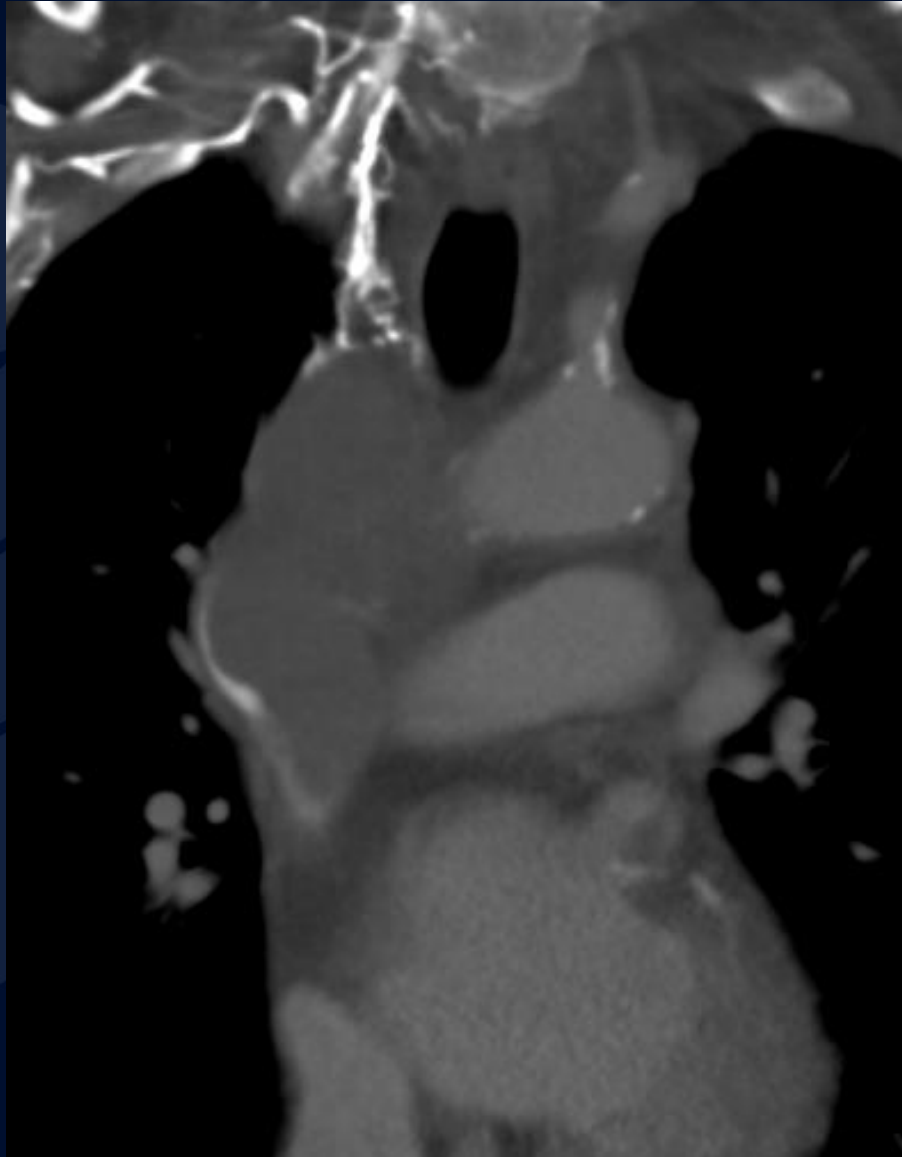
Sagittal CT
chest C+



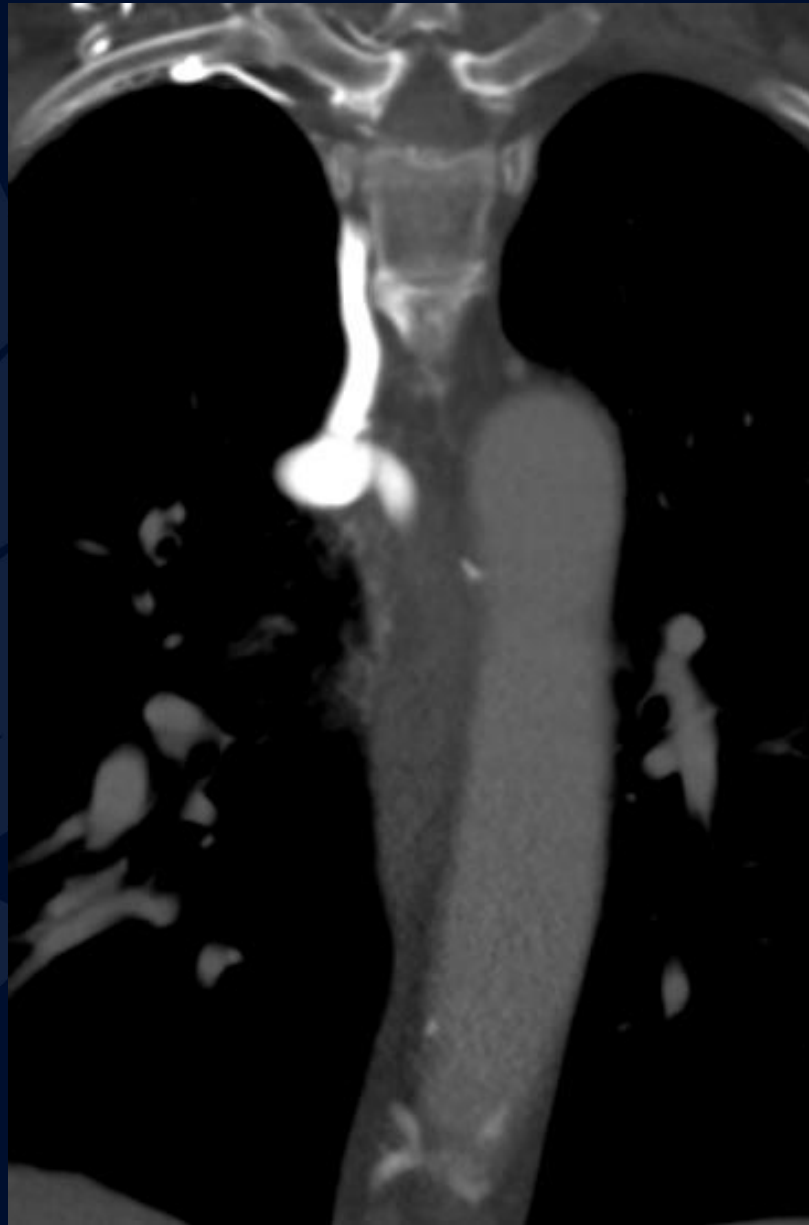
Axial CT Chest C+



Axial CT Chest C+



Coronal CT
Chest C+



Coronal CT
Chest C+

A large, stylized oak leaf graphic in a dark blue color, positioned on the left side of the slide. It features detailed vein patterns and a lobed edge.

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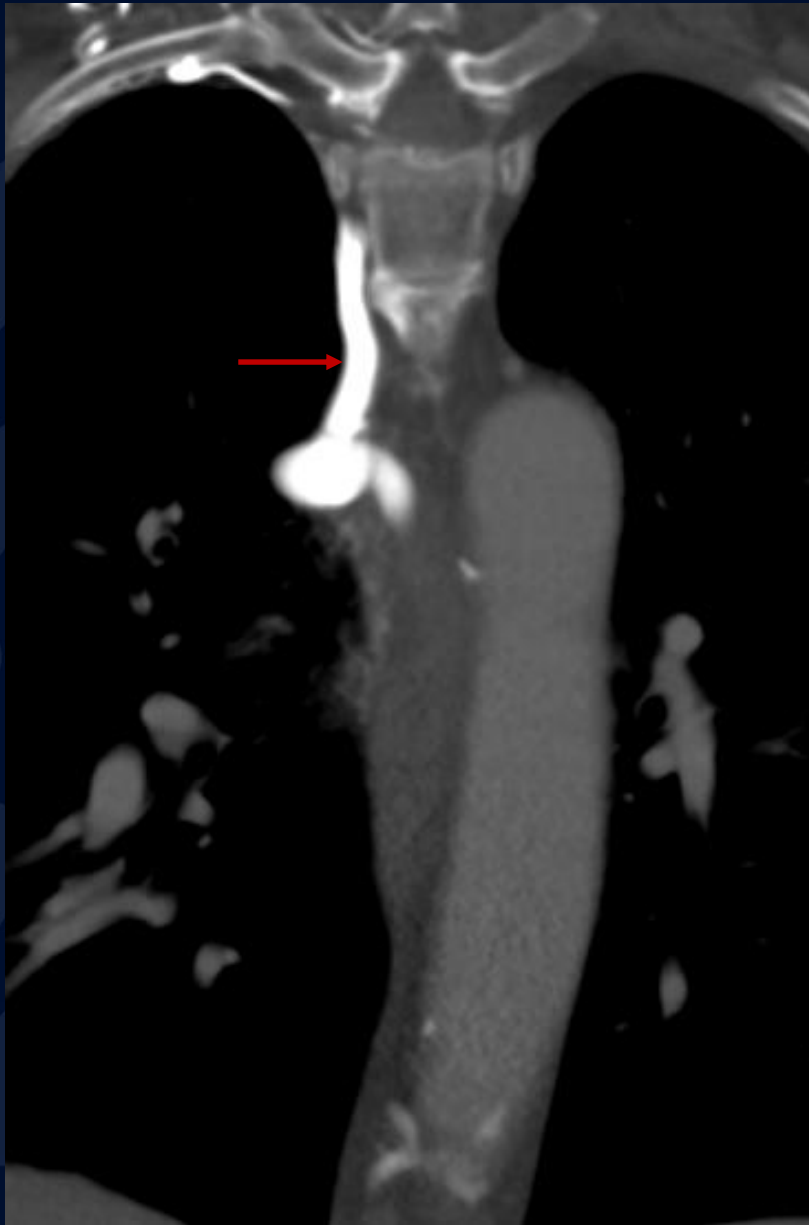
Superior Vena Cava (SVC) syndrome



Sagittal CT chest with contrast shows a mediastinal mass (blue star) with tumor thrombus in SVC (red arrow)



Coronal images demonstrate the mediastinal mass (blue star) with thrombus in the IVC (red arrow) and prominent collaterals at the thoracic inlet (yellow arrow).



Coronal images at a different level show prominence of the azygous vein (arrow)

Malignancy-related SVC Syndrome

- Obstruction results from extrinsic compression of SVC by either primary tumor or enlarged mediastinal lymph nodes
- When SVC becomes obstructed, venous collaterals form alternative pathways to return venous blood to right atrium (ie: azygous, internal mammary, lateral thoracic)
- Presentation: facial swelling, head fullness, headaches, visual/auditory disturbances
- Management: treat underlying disease

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and SVC Syndrome

- SVC syndrome develops in 2 to 4 percent of cases of NHL.
- Most NHLs cause SVC syndrome by extrinsic compression due to enlarged lymph nodes

References

1. Savarese DM, Zavarin M, Smyczynski MS, Rohrer MJ, Hutzler MJ. Superior vena cava syndrome secondary to an angiotropic large cell lymphoma. *Cancer*. 2000;89(12):2515.
2. Kalra, M., Sen I., Glovicizki P. Endovenous and operative treatment of superior Vena Cava Syndrome. *Surg Clin North Am* 2018, 98:321
3. Wilson LD., Detterbeck FC., Yahalom J. Clinical practice. Superior vena cava syndrome with malignant causes. *N. England J Med* 2007; 356: 1862.
4. Grammatico, M., Kincaid, B. SVC syndrome. *Radiology Online* 2020. University of Connecticut Health.