

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

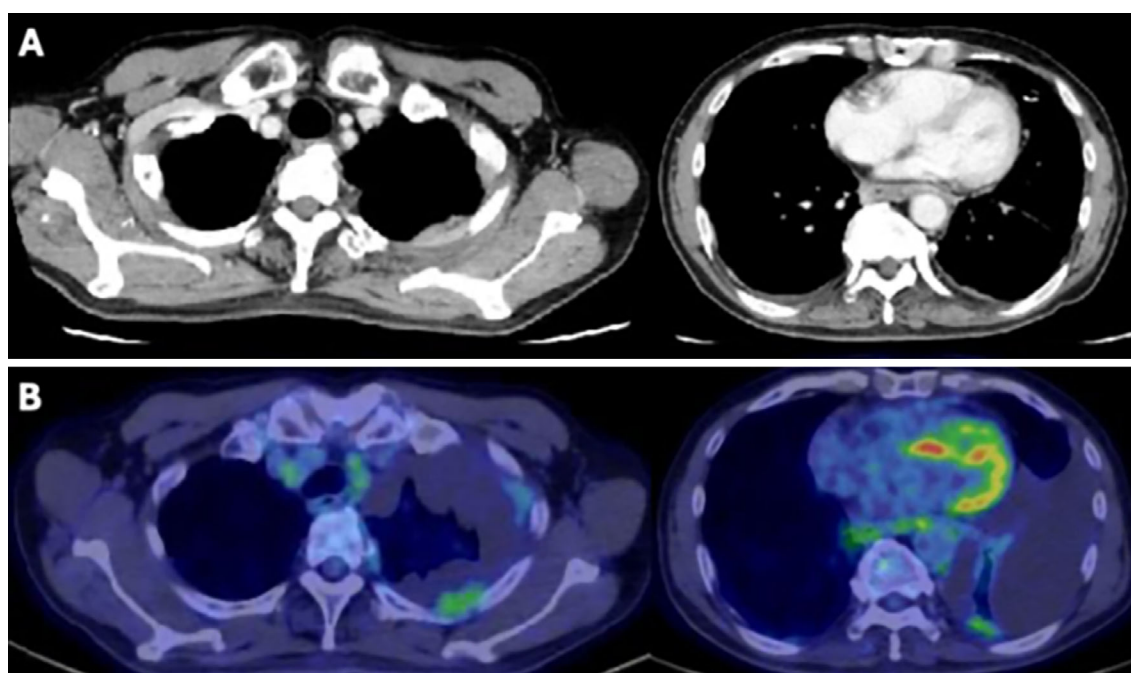
Pleural mesothelioma with net-like structures

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Key words: Pleural mesothelioma, Thoracoscopy

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Picture 1.

A 74-year-old man who worked as a plasterer presented to our hospital with exertional dyspnea. Chest radiography revealed left-sided pleural effusion. Contrast-enhanced chest computed tomography revealed thickening and enhancement of the left apical and lower left dorsal pleura (Picture 1A). Positron emission tomography-computed tomography revealed a fluorodeoxyglucose uptake in the thickened area (Picture 1B). Thoracoscopy under local anesthesia could not identify the lung apex because of pleural adhesions. However, diffuse whitish net-like structures were observed adjacent to the plaques in the lower left dorsal parietal pleura (Picture 2A). A biopsy of these structures revealed that the tumor cells were intertwined with collagen fibers (Pic-

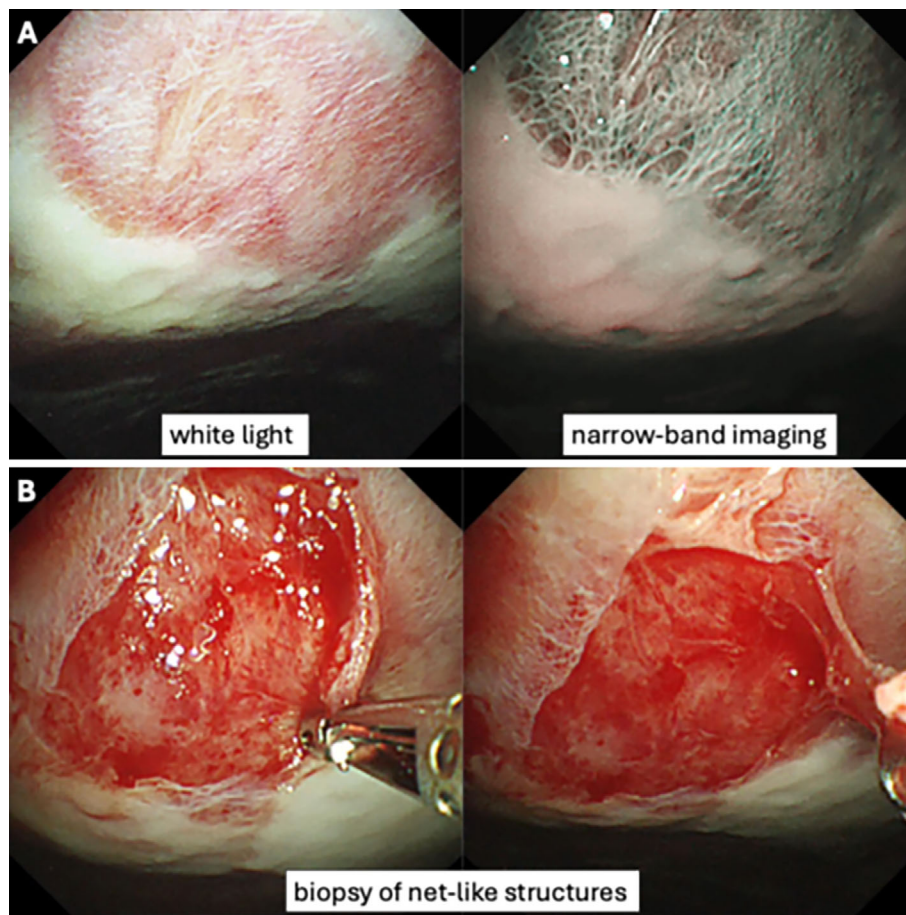
ture 2B, 3). The histopathological diagnosis of epithelial mesothelioma was confirmed. The net-like structures are believed to represent collagen fibers based on the pathological findings. To the best of our knowledge, there have been no reports of findings resembling net-like structures on thoracoscopic examinations of malignant pleural mesothelioma or other pleural diseases (1, 2). These findings may have been considered non-specific, potentially leading to insufficient indications for a biopsy. However, in this case, a biopsy of the net-like structures led to a diagnosis of mesothelioma, thus suggesting that such findings should be given careful attention in future clinical practice.

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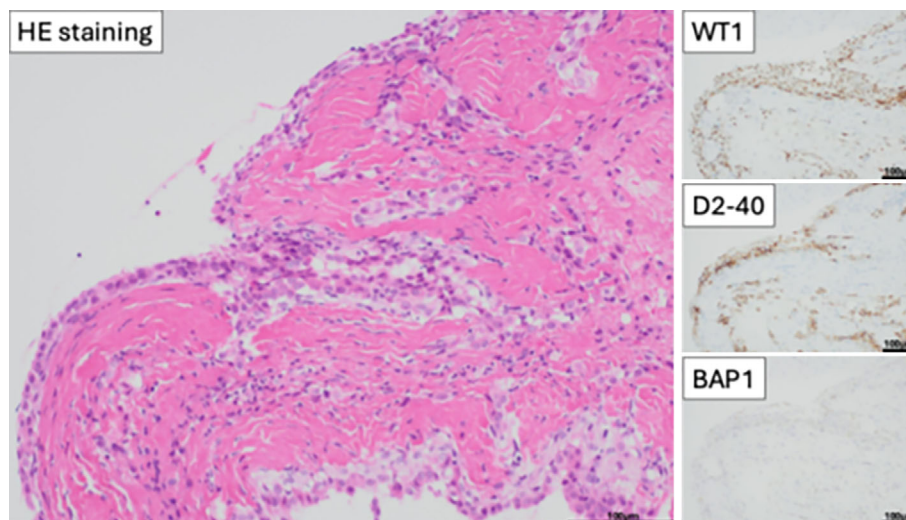
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Picture 2.



Picture 3.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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