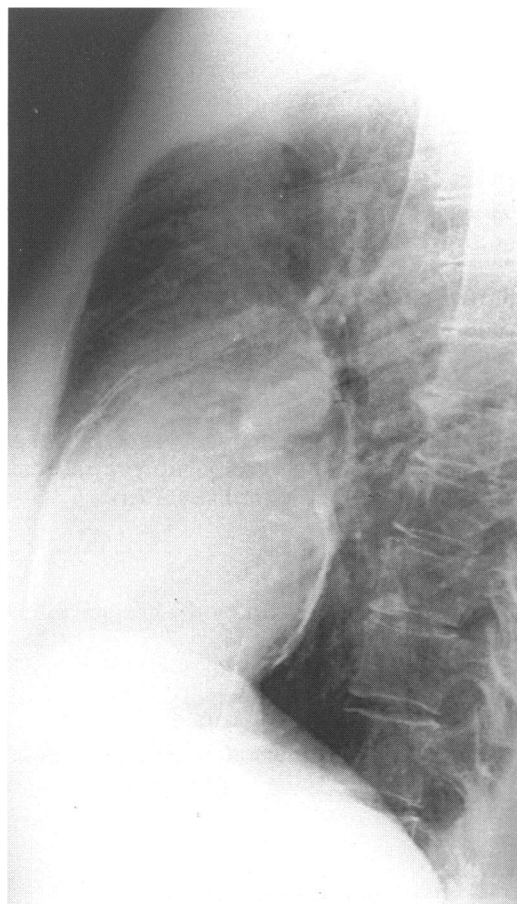


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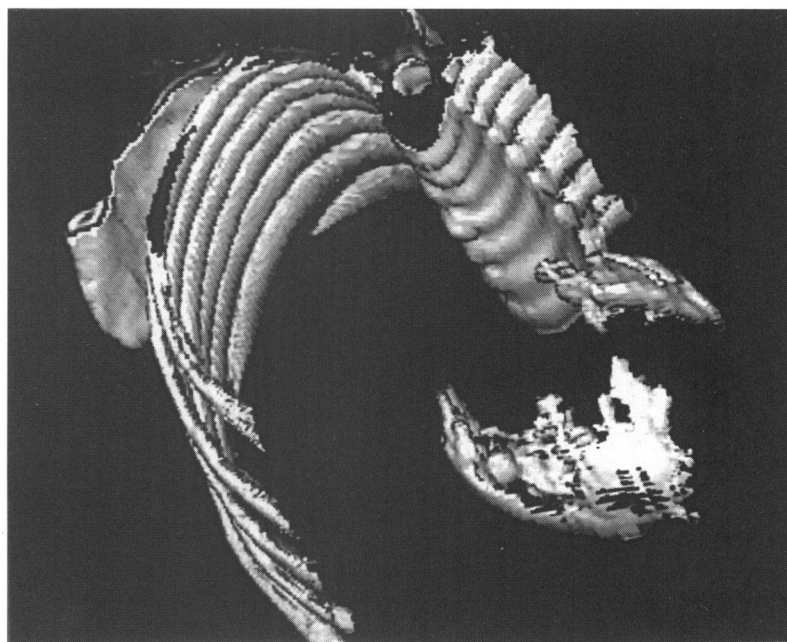
IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY

3D construction from spiral CT scanning of pericardial calcification

(A)



(B)



A 63 year old woman presented with tiredness and ankle swelling and was found to have systemic venous congestion. Her anterior-posterior and lateral (A) chest x rays showed a rim of calcification mainly affecting the inferior part of the pericardium and the diagnosis of calcific constrictive pericarditis was subsequently made. Her condition gradually worsened despite treatment with diuretics, and surgery was considered. A preoperative spiral com-

puted tomograph (B) with a 3D reconstruction shows that the pericardial calcification is more extensive than suggested by the x rays. Calcification involved the pulmonary arteries and the whole of the inferior and posterior parts of the pericardium. This information is helpful to the surgeons in their approaches to pericardiectomy.

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