

Summary and Conclusion

The mediastinum is the site of a variety of benign and malignant pathological processes. While the chest radiographs may be the initial imaging modality to suggest an abnormality, CT provides detailed depiction of anatomical relationships and characteristics of the lesion. The accurate diagnosis and effective treatment has become easier with application of CT. This study emphasized the rule and importance of CT in evaluation of the common and uncommon anterior mediastinal masses.

CT is highly sensitive method for diagnosing localized mediastinal masses because of its ability to determine the anatomy in transverse cuts, and the exact attenuation values of different tissues e.g. fat, fluid, soft tissues and calcification. Also with the use of intravenous contrast injection, CT can differentiate between avascular and vascular lesions.

The clinical presentation of mediastinal masses may be non specific or incidental. Despite recent advances in imaging technology, histological examination is required to exclude malignancy.



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Finally we concluded that CT remain the most important and accurate investigation for a successful approach to a definite final diagnosis mediastinal lesions especially if combined with CT-guided FNB.