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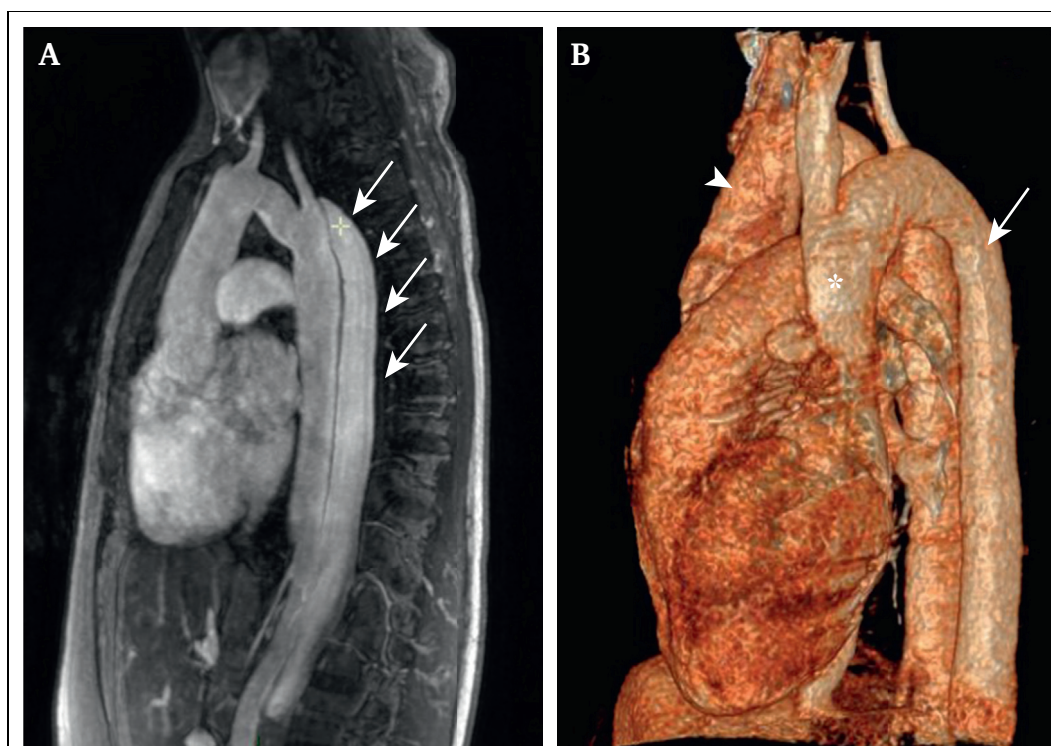
COUP D’OEIL

Azygos Vein Mimicking Aortic Dissection

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An asymptomatic 45 year old woman who underwent open surgical correction of a coarctation 25 years ago was under cardiac surveillance. Due to increased blood pressure, thoracic magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) was performed. The initial MRA reading described a type B aortic dissection (A, arrows) according to the Stanford classification. However, the final protocol showed that the initial false lumen was not the aorta (B, arrowhead) but an enlarged azygos vein (B, arrow), draining into the left superior vena cava (B, asterisk), due to inferior vena cava aplasia and an abdominal situs inversus.

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