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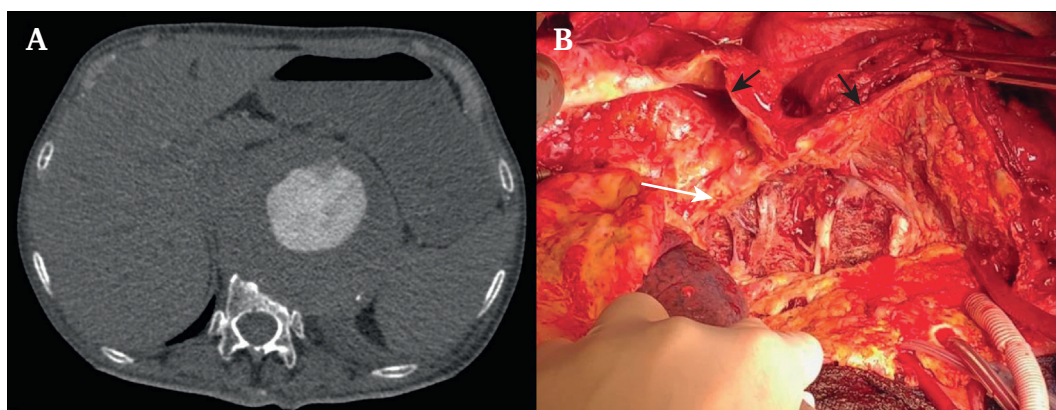
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COUP D'OEIL

Extensive Vertebral Erosion Due to a Large Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm

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A 64 year old female was referred with a 10 cm diameter thoracic aortic aneurysm. The patient had been complaining of severe backpain for almost two years. Work up showed extensive vertebral erosion due to a large thoracic aortic aneurysm (A). An open thoraco-abdominal surgical repair was performed with partial cardiopulmonary bypass (femoral cannulation) and visceral cannulation. After opening the aneurysm (B, black arrow), an eroded aortic wall and vertebrae (B, white arrow) were noted but did not require orthopaedic stabilisation. Bone wax was placed on the eroded vertebrae, and they were covered with a part of the aneurysm wall to prevent erosion by the Dacron graft.

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