Pulmonary artery sling and tracheal bronchus in an infant with severe respiratory distress

A 19-month-old girl was admitted to our clinic with complaints of dyspnea and cough. Her medical history revealed that she had been hospitalized with a diagnosis of bronchiolitis and/or bronchopneumonia for five times during the last year. On physical examination her weight was 8 kg (<3rd percentile), height was 78 cm (10th percentile), she was tachypneic, tachycardic, and she had stridor, suprasternal retractions and coarse crackles over both hemithorax. Echocardiography revealed that the left pulmonary artery (LPA) was originating distal to its normal position, which was consistent with pulmonary artery sling (Fig. 1). Multislice computed tomography demonstrated that the LPA arose from the posterior aspect of the right pulmonary artery and encircled the trachea (Fig. 2). Also, right-upper-lobe bronchus was arising from the right lateral wall of the trachea above the carina (tracheal bronchus, Fig. 3). Because the sling structure was compressing the trachea and causing severe respiratory distress, she underwent left pulmonary arteriopexy operation. The patient’s postoperative course was uneventful and all the respiratory symptoms resolved after the operation. Echocardiography indicated a mild stenosis of LPA which was causing 17 mmHg peak gradient at the level of anastomosis (Fig. 4).

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