# Successful Repair of a Ruptured Sinus of Valsalva Following Blunt Chest Traumatic Injury

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### **Case Presentation**

#### **History of presenting illness:**

- 47 y/o M s/p blunt chest trauma
- PMH: Prior GSW with L thoracotomy/sternotomy
- Concern for thoracic aortic injury
- CC: + LOC, chest pain, and SOB

**Primary survey**: Required BiPAP support



Incisions for exposure of the heart



Figure 1A: The transthoracic echocardiograph reveals a *rupture of the sinus of Valsalva*. The rupture is near the aortic root's *non-coronary cusp (NCC)*. Also visible are the right ventricle (RV), left ventricular outflow tract (LVOT), right coronary cusp (RCC), and ascending aorta.

Figure 1B: Axial view of chest CT showing **disruption of the non-coronary cusp (NCC) with contained posterior hematoma within the mediastinum**. The left coronary cusp (LCC) and right coronary cusp (RCC) are visualized.

## **Operative Findings**

An emergent redo sternotomy was performed.

# Revealed rupture of the left and non-coronary sinus blowout injury.

A biological aortic root and valve replacement (Biobentall) was performed.

The patient was discharged and <u>fully recovered</u> on follow-up.



### **Ruptured Sinus of Valsalva**

Rare and fatal disease without urgent repair

 History of sternotomy possibly contributed to the patient's survival by containing the hematoma

The most common site of traumatic injury is the **aortic isthmus** 

• Isthmus rupture has a higher survival rate compared to ascending aortic root rupture.



### **Diagnosis and Treatment**

### **CTA and TEE are diagnostic**

 TEE gives additional information about valve and aortic injuries

Gold standard: **Bentall** procedure

 Ascending aorta and aortic valve replacement



### Conclusion

- The **unique** feature of this case
  - Acute traumatic cause of the rupture
  - Distinct **CT and TTE** findings
  - Successful aortic root replacement.
- Traumatic free wall ruptured sinus of Valsalva into the mediastinum can show **specific radiological** findings;
  - Rapid surgical correction should ensue.

