A 75-year-old woman was admitted to the emergency room because of increasing edema. She had previously been diagnosed with rheumatic mitral disease, which required surgery with implantation of a mechanical prosthesis in 2001. At that time, pulmonary hypertension was present, and during the follow-up, she developed severe tricuspid regurgitation. A single-chamber ventricular pacemaker was implanted in 2006 because of complete atrioventricular block. The patient was in New York Heart Association class IV.

The emergency room physician ordered a chest x-ray (Figure [A]), which showed a giant cardiac silhouette. Both atria were increased in size. A pacemaker lead could be seen in the right chambers, as well as a mechanical prosthesis in the mitral position. A right pleural effusion was suspected, and a CT scan was done (Figure [B]). The CT scan showed scarce right and left pleural effusion. The right and left atria were dilated, with an estimated volume of 5.6 mL. The computed tomography scan demonstrated that the giant atria mimicked a right pleural effusion on the chest x-ray.

Extreme atrial dilatation has been described extensively in the past but is now infrequent in developed countries. The decreasing incidence of rheumatic fever and the availability of surgery have contributed to making the images like those we present here a rarity.

Disclosures
None.

References
Extreme Right and Left Atrial Enlargement in a Patient With Rheumatic Valvular Disease and Mitral Mechanical Prosthesis
Alberto García-Lledó and Javier Balaguer

doii: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.112.000418

Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2013 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/127/19/2000

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Circulation can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Circulation is online at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org//subscriptions/