Imaging study of pulmonary vein stenosis

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Abstract
Obstruction of the pulmonary veins is a rare entity often difficult to diagnose since they are not evaluated on a regular basis when interpreting chest imaging studies. Its timely diagnosis is relevant since in advanced stages it has a poor prognosis. Currently, the most frequently encountered cause is secondary to radiofrequency ablation procedures performed to manage atrial fibrillation, but it can also occur due to pulmonary or mediastinal tumors, fibrosing mediastinitis, vein thrombosis or congenital defects. Regardless of the etiology, an obstruction of the pulmonary veins can translate into variable congestion of the segment dependent on the pulmonary parenchyma. High-grade obstructions might reach zones of pulmonary edema, pulmonary infarction and even massive hemoptysis. A review on relevant anatomy, main etiologies, and imaging findings of these pathologies will be provided in this article.