

catheter or (2) tube thoracostomy with the instillation of a sclerosing agent such as doxycycline (500 mg).

Mesothelioma Malignant mesotheliomas are primary tumors that arise from the mesothelial cells that line the pleural cavities; most are related to asbestos exposure. Patients with mesothelioma present with chest pain and shortness of breath. The chest radiograph reveals a pleural effusion, generalized pleural thickening, and a shrunk hemithorax. The diagnosis is usually established with image-guided needle biopsy or thoracoscopy ([Fig. 294-2](#)).

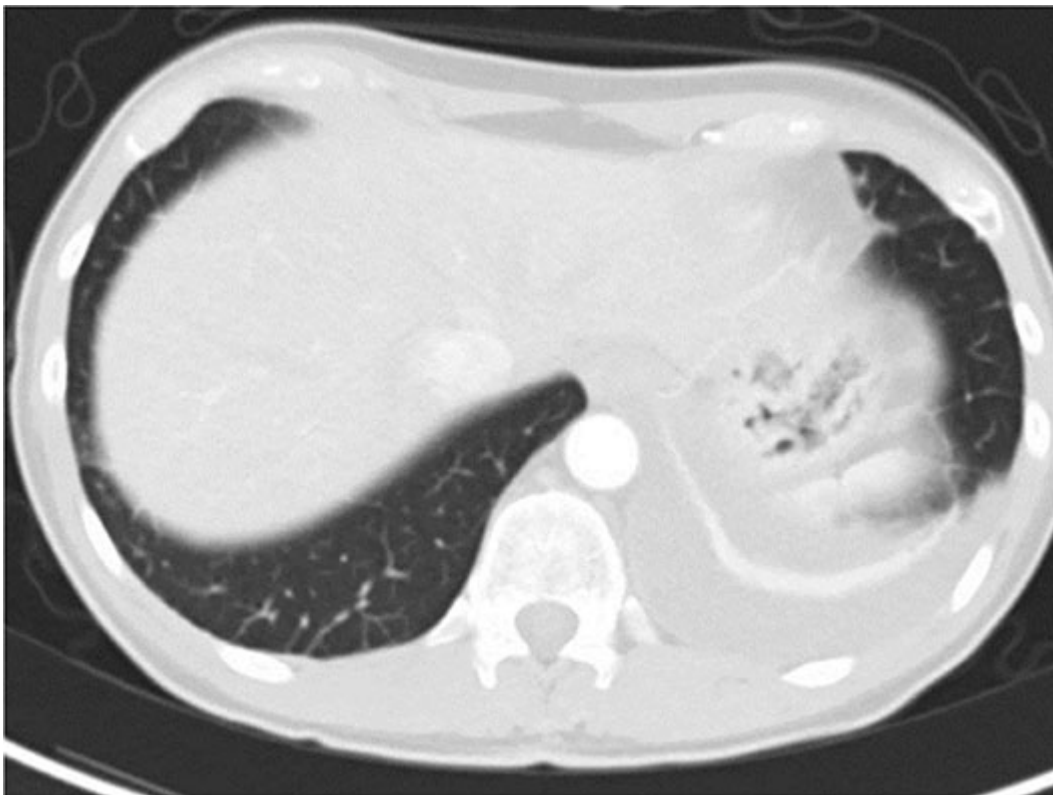


FIGURE 294-2 CT scan from a patient with mesothelioma demonstrating a mass in the left lung, a pleural effusion, pleural thickening, and a shrunk hemithorax.

Effusion Secondary to Pulmonary Embolization The diagnosis most commonly overlooked in the differential diagnosis of a patient with an undiagnosed pleural effusion is pulmonary embolism. Dyspnea is the most common symptom. The pleural fluid is almost always an exudate. The diagnosis is established by spiral CT scan