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Seven months: the perfect time to complete the pectus excavatum correction

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The Ravitch procedure consists of chondrectomy of deformed cartilages, sternal wedge osteotomies and retrosternal placement of a small metallic bar (Fig. 1A and B). It is not clear when it is appropriate

to remove metallic bar. Our experience demonstrated costal cartilage regeneration is shown with a complete correction of the deformity 7 months after surgery (Fig. 2A–C).

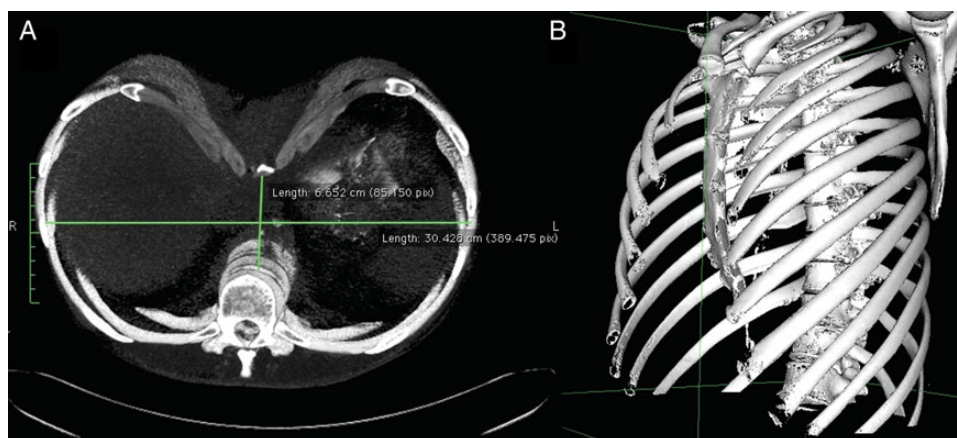


Figure 1: (A and B) Preoperative chest computerized tomography (CT) scan with tridimensional (3D) reconstruction of a patient with a severe pectus excavatum (Haller Index score, 4.57) who underwent the Ravitch correction with a bilateral chondrectomy from the 3rd to 10th costal cartilages.

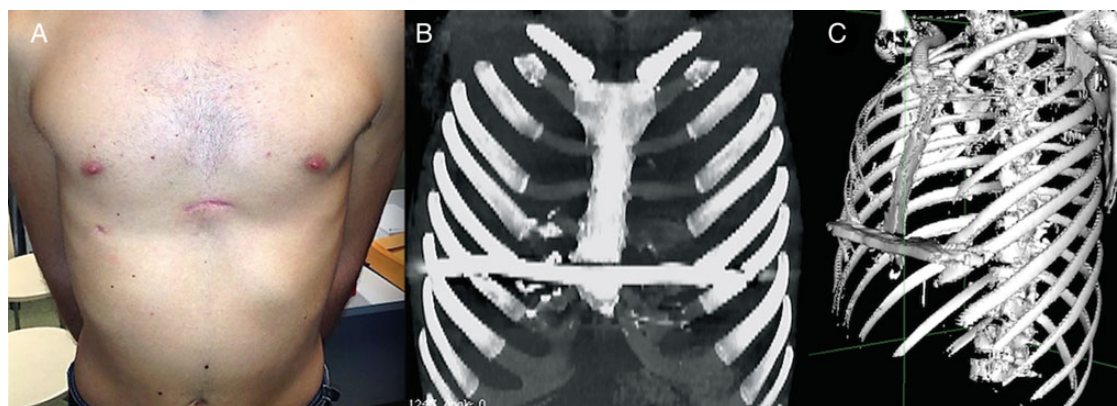


Figure 2: (A) 'Half-moon' shaped skin incision (4 cm) used for the correction, performed in correspondence with the deepest depressed point of the chondro-sternal deformity, allowing an optimal exposure of the sternum. (B and C) Chest CT scan with 3D reconstruction at 7 months from correction showing complete regeneration from the 3rd to 10th costal cartilages. The metallic bar was removed after 7 months.