History: 47 year old professional mixed martial artist with 3 months of left lower rib pain. Coronal PD of the left lower chest wall is shown.
Axial IR images of left anterior ribs
Consecutive coronal PD images
What's the Diagnosis – Case 62
Findings

- Coronal images demonstrate disruption of the costal cartilage of the anterior aspect of the seventh and eighth ribs with displacement seen on the axial images. Additionally, there is impingement of the anterior branch of the intercostal nerves at the sites of displacement of the costal cartilage.
Normal black signal of costal cartilage

Disruption of the costal cartilage
Normal costal cartilage

Displaced and disrupted costal cartilage
Intercostal nerve impinged
Intercostal nerve impinged
Diagnosis: Costal Cartilage Fracture

- A rare and not well known traumatic injury that can be seen in contact athletes especially in rugby players or other athletes that sustain direct blows to the chest wall and are without substantial padding. The prevalence of this injury as well as the capability for healing of the cartilage are not well known. By in large, athletes can return to sport with symptomatic relief but problems such as chest wall instability and subsequent respiratory issues may be more problematic.
Resources

- **Costal Cartilage Fractures and Disruptions in a Rugby Football Player.**