A 52-year-old patient was admitted to our hospital with a seven-day history of recurrent hemoptysis. The clinical symptoms occurred occasionally, producing up to 15 mL of sputum stained with fresh blood after coughing. She had no history of an underlying disease. A physical examination of the lungs revealed rough breathing sounds. The laboratory findings revealed no obvious abnormal values, including for liver and renal function, C-reactive protein and complete blood count. Bronchoscopy confirmed the presence of an ileal mass with rich vascularity (Figure 1). Chest computed tomography (CT) showed a mass protruding into the airway lumen (Figure 2). After enhancement, homogeneous enhancement was observed in the areas (Figure 3).

What is your diagnosis?
See the next page for your diagnosis.
Dieulafoy’s disease had been defined as vascular malformation in the past and was thought to originate only from the gastrointestinal tract. However, a bronchial Dieulafoy lesion was first described in 1955 by the British pathologist Sweerts in the form of vascular malformation in the bronchi. Pathologically, the lesions, localized in the submucosal tissue of the trachea, typically appear as a dilated and tortuous artery that abuts the margin of the membranous tracheal wall. The vascular anomalies may originate from a bronchial artery or pulmonary artery.

The latest studies describe the endoscopic findings in favor of Bronchial Dieulafoy lesion as (a) a smooth mass protruding into the respiratory tract with clear boundaries, (b) enlarged and ectatic blood vessels observed and extending into the subserosa, and (c) mostly on the right side.

According to the existing literature, the medical management of Bronchial Dieulafoy lesions includes surgical repair, endoscopic treatment, and vascular embolization. Angiography and embolization could be helpful for the control of bronchial artery malformation. Endovascular intervention is generally considered ineffective for these vascular anomalies, supplied from pulmonary artery circulation entirely. Such patients are usually referred for endoscopic treatment or surgery. Our patient underwent bronchial artery embolization with resolution of symptoms.

Authors’ Contribution
HR and JZ participated in collection and interpretation of data, literature search, and writing the manuscript. YNW was involved in reviewing the manuscript.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures
The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Ethical Statement
In writing the manuscript, the authors followed the policy of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

References