Infective endocarditis of unicuspid aortic valve complicated by mitral-aortic intervalvular fibrosa pseudoaneurysm

13

Salima Bhimani[1], Jared Klein[1], Hani K Najm[1], Robert Stewart[1], Chandrakant Patel[2], Rukmini Komarlu[1]

[1]Cleveland Clinic. [2]Akron Children's

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Introduction: Pseudo aneurysm of mitral aortic inter valvular fibrosa (PA-MIVF), is a rare entity in pediatric population. It entails an avascular region between the anterior mitral leaflet and non-coronary cusp of the aortic valve with potential to become a nidus for infection with potential to compress surrounding structures.

Clinical Presentation: An 11 year old male with Osteogenesis Imperfecta and known unicuspid aortic valve with moderate stenosis and regurgitation, and progressive ascending aortic dilatation presented with weight loss, night sweats and acute onset of intermittent fever. Clinical examination revealed an unchanged systolic murmur with new onset of tender hepatosplenomegaly. Blood cultures were positive for *Streptococcus Mutans* mandating initiation of broad-spectrum antibiotics. Due to clinical suspicion of infective endocarditis an echocardiogram was performed emergently. Transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) revealed a medium-sized, 1.2 cm x 3.0 cm, irregular, hyperechoic, mobile vegetation on the left ventricular aspect of the thickened aortic leaflets with infiltration in the plane of P-MAIVF. To and fro flow was noted from the left ventricular outflow tract into the pseudo aneurysm with LV dilation.

Discussion: P-MAIVF is a rare but fatal complication often associated with native aortic valve endocarditis. Due to the rarity of its presentation, prompt diagnosis remains challenging, as diagnosis can be confounded by presence of perivalvar abscess and sinus of Valsalva aneurysms. However, with advancement in multimodality imaging timely diagnosis and intervention has improved recognition of this rare entity. The sensitivity of TTE for this diagnosis is limited (~ 40%), hence a low threshold exists for performing TEE (greater sensitivity 90-95%) particularly in susceptible patients for prompt surgical management minimizing risks of potentially fatal complications.

Conclusion: TTE was a useful asset in determining P-MAIVF extent and its relationship with adjacent structures. Based on these findings, our patient underwent emergent aortic valve and root replacement with a 22 mm homograft with coronary artery re-implantation in a timely fashion.

Categories

2nd year Fellow: Case

Program/Institution Name

Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Non-Bacterial Thrombotic Endocarditis from Primary Anti-Phospholipid Antibody Syndrome Leading to Symptomatic Mitral Stenosis

35

Michael Biersmith

The Ohio State University

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Introduction: Antiphospholipid antibody syndrome (APS) is a multisystem autoimmune disorder characterized by arterial and venous thromboembolic events associated with circulating antiphospholipid antibodies. In many cases, APS is secondary to other autoimmune conditions such as systemic lupus erythematosus and can result in various cardiac pathologies. Primary APS is less likely to manifest valvular heart disease, usually non-specific valve thickening and mitral regurgitation. Clinically significant mitral stenosis is rare.

Case Presentation:

60 year old female with a history of APS, chronic kidney disease, subdural hemorrhage and GI bleeding while on warfarin therapy presented with recurrent dyspnea and orthopnea. Given her prior bleeding issues and labile INRs, her warfarin had previously been switched to Apixaban 2.5 mg BID. Reduced dose was used given weight parameters and renal dysfunction. Previously extensive serological evaluation did not indicate a concurrent rheumatologic diagnosis. She had no history of rheumatic fever or recurrent childhood upper respiratory infections. In a 6 month period, she had been admitted on three occasions for acute decompensated heart failure. Initial TTE and TEE showed rheumatic appearing mitral valve with mild-moderate mitral valve stenosis. After her third admission, she was referred for mitral balloon valvuloplasty for suspected rheumatic mitral stenosis after her mitral valve gradient on TTE was 20 mmHg. Intraoperative TEE showed interval development of moderately severe mitral stenosis and large thrombus burden. Comparative TEE imaging was obtained under similar physiological parameters and degree of anemia (Figure 1). All culture data was negative. Balloon valvuloplasty was aborted given extensive thrombus burden and concern for high risk of thromboembolism. Similarly, surgical valve replacement was not offered given prohibitive bleeding and thrombotic risk.

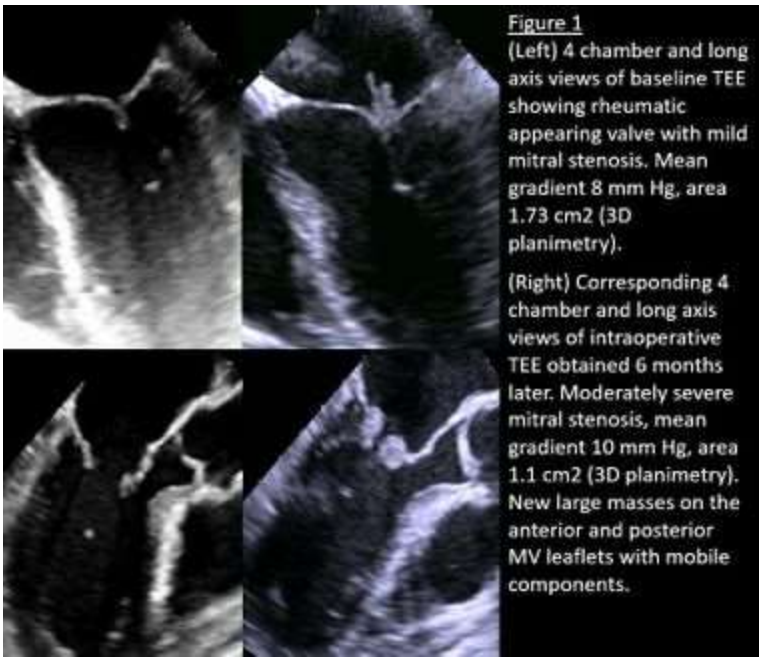


Figure 1
(Left) 4 chamber and long axis views of baseline TEE showing rheumatic appearing valve with mild mitral stenosis. Mean gradient 8 mm Hg, area 1.73 cm2 (3D planimetry).

(Right) Corresponding 4 chamber and long axis views of intraoperative TEE obtained 6 months later. Moderately severe mitral stenosis, mean gradient 10 mm Hg, area 1.1 cm2 (3D planimetry). New large masses on the anterior and posterior MV leaflets with mobile components.

Discussion: The leading diagnosis is non-bacterial thrombotic endocarditis from primary anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome leading to symptomatic mitral stenosis. The degree of stenosis rapidly progressed despite appropriate antiplatelet and anticoagulation, in line with other case report data. Though the use of Apixaban for treatment of APLA is off-label, this was felt necessary given patient's prior bleeding history with warfarin. After consultation with rheumatology, hematology, and cardiac surgery teams, a non-invasive approach including initiation of Plaquenil, Rituximab, and increasing Apixaban dosing was pursued in an attempt to control the underlying hematological drivers of her valvulopathy.

Conclusion: Primary APS is an uncommon hematologic syndrome and mitral stenosis is a rare manifestation of this disease. This case highlights how APS-related valve disease may be mistaken for rheumatic valve disease and is likely to progress despite appropriate antiplatelet and anticoagulation treatment. It further demonstrates the importance of a multidisciplinary team approach in the management of such patients, particularly given the high propensity for bleeding and thromboembolic risk.

Categories

2nd year Fellow: Case

Program/Institution Name

Ohio State University Hospital

Successful Treatment of Native Acquired Aortic Atresia using an Endovascular Covered Stent

76

Meredith C.G. Broberg, Katherine M. O'Neill, Emily C. Kish, John S. Lozier, Martin L. Bocks

UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Introduction:

Severe aortic coarctation with progression to acquired atresia is a rare cause of hypertension in adults. The condition can lead to significant morbidity and early mortality if not treated early. Although endovascular intervention is the standard approach for native adult coarctation, the presence of aortic atresia, with need to recanalize the atretic segment, increases risk considerably and requires methodical approach and experienced operators to allow for successful outcomes.

Case:

A 25 year-old female presented with severe hypertension, refractory to treatment with amlodipine and labetalol. On examination, she had a systolic BP of 182 mmHg in the right arm, no palpable pulses of the bilateral lower extremities, and a continuous murmur at the bilateral infraclavicular areas. Computed tomography angiography for atypical chest pain showed short-segment atresia of the proximal descending aorta (Figure 1).

The patient underwent cardiac catheterization via femoral and radial approach. Simultaneous aortic angiograms above and below the obstruction demonstrated a 6 mm atretic segment. A right coronary catheter was positioned in the inferior limb and directed superiorly. The stiff end of a 0.014" wire was advanced through the atretic segment and snared. The atretic segment was ultimately crossed with a long sheath, and a 4.5 cm Covered CP Stent (NuMED) premounted on a 16 mm BIB balloon was implanted. After stent placement there was excellent flow through the recanalized aorta, no endoleak, and no vascular injury. There were no complications and she was discharged after two days. Since the procedure, she has remained normotensive off antihypertensive medications.

Discussion:

Our case demonstrates important points about caring for ACHD patients with complex and high risk anatomy. First, a high degree of suspicion for congenital etiologies should be sought when conditions present in young adults in the absence of risk factors. This patient likely had long-standing hypertension,

but despite her young age, lack of risk factors, and several pathognomonic clinical signs, a secondary etiology was never sought. Second, adult patients with congenital heart disease should be referred to dedicated ACHD programs when surgical or interventional procedures are indicated. Although, transcatheter endovascular stenting is considered first-line therapy for native severe coarctation, the optimal therapy for acquired atresia has not been demonstrated. This patient was initially referred to adult CT surgery for repair. Fortunately, her surgeon recognized the need for ACHD input and referred her to our program for evaluation. After extensive discussion at combined case conference, the transcatheter approach was recommended. The patient then went on to have a successful intervention and now is normotensive without the need for medication.

Conclusions:

Acquired aortic atresia is the severest form of aortic coarctation and invariably leads to upper extremity hypertension and significant cardiovascular complications if left untreated. Coarctation should be considered in all young patients with hypertension, especially those refractory to medications. Although both surgical and endovascular therapies carry significant risks, the endovascular approach using a covered stent can be performed safely and lead to excellent short and medium term outcomes.

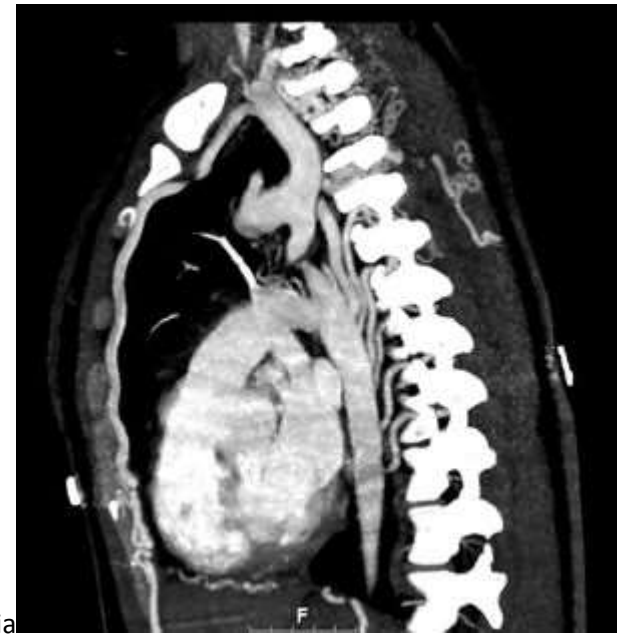


Figure 1: CTA revealing aortic atresia

Categories

2nd year Fellow: Case

Program/Institution Name

CWRU/Univ Hosps Cleveland Med Ctr/Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

Assessment of Exertional Ischemia in a Child with Anomalous Coronary Artery Origin and Ventricular Preexcitation using Nitrogen-13 Ammonia Positron Emission Tomography

46

Kaushal Dosani, Walter Jr. Hoyt, Carolyn M Wilhelm

University Hospitals/Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Introduction: Anomalous origin of a coronary artery is a congenital anomaly that can result in sudden cardiac death (SCD). The 2018 ACC/AHA ACHD guidelines recommends that in patients with anomalous coronary artery origin, evidence of ischemia warrant surgical intervention. Myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI) during exercise stress testing (EST) can assess exertional ischemia. Conventionally, single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) has been used for this purpose. However, positron emission tomography (PET) MPI offers better spatial, temporal resolution and exposes the patient to less radiation. To our knowledge, the use of PET-MPI using ^{13}N-ammonia to evaluate ischemia in anomalous coronary artery origin has not been reported in pediatric literature.

Case: A 12-year-old previously healthy male was was found to have ventricular pre-excitation (VPE) incidentally on electrocardiogram during anesthesia monitoring during orthopedic surgery. He reported occasional exertional chest pain and shortness of breath. Echocardiogram showed anomalous origin of the right coronary artery (ARCA) from the left aortic sinus. CT angiography confirmed the diagnosis as well showed an intramural course with a slit-like ostium. A ^{13}N-ammonia PET-MPI scan was performed with EST which showed signs of ischemia involving lateral and inferior wall. During this EST, the patient also had a sudden and discrete loss of VPE suggesting low risk of rapid antegrade conduction. Patient eventually underwent surgical unroofing of the anomalous right coronary artery without complication.

Discussion: SCD in patients with ARCA is thought to be caused by ischemia due to increased myocardial demand along with compression of the ostium and intramural course during exertion. ST-segment and T-wave changes on ECG suggest ischemia during EST. However, in the presence of VPE, repolarization is altered and such findings are not a reliable assessment of ischemia. SPECT MPI can help assess for ischemia in this situation, but PET-MPI scan has been shown to have better resolution and higher diagnostic sensitivity for evaluation of ischemia in patients with coronary artery obstruction.

Conclusion: This case is the first known report of ^{13}N-ammonia PET-MPI scan to evaluate exertional ischemia in a pediatric patient with an anomalous coronary artery origin. Additionally, this case also illustrates that PET-MPI scan can be used in cases where ECG alone cannot be used due to VPE.

Categories

2nd year Fellow: Case

Program/Institution Name

CWRU/Univ Hosps Cleveland Med Ctr/Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

Acute coronary syndrome in a young woman with prior orthotopic heart transplant, a rare complication of cardiac allograft vasculopathy

36

Zachary Garrett, Sitaramesh Emani, Ernest Mazzaferri

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Introduction:

Cardiac allograft vasculopathy (CAV) is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality late after orthotopic heart transplantation (OHT); however, acute coronary syndrome is a rare complication of OHT. Here, we present a case of an inferior ST elevation myocardial infarction eleven years post cardiac transplant in the setting of significant CAV.

Case Presentation:

The patient is a seventeen-year-old female with a history of congenital dextro transposition of the great arteries that was repaired with arterial switch at two weeks of age. She required urgent OHT at six months of age due to complications and a second OHT at five years of age due to CAV. Serial left and right heart catheterizations with biopsies post-transplant were unremarkable. Eleven years post-transplant, the patient developed sudden onset left shoulder pain, nausea, and dizziness. On presentation, she was found to have inferior ST elevations on electrocardiogram. She underwent emergent coronary angiography that revealed an acute, complete occlusion of the distal right coronary artery. She underwent successful percutaneous intervention and was found to have moderate vasculopathy of the terminal right and posterior descending coronary arteries. Additionally, there was diffuse 30-40% stenosis and distal pruning of the left anterior descending and moderate to severe disease in the left circumflex consistent with CAV.

Discussion:

Cardiac allograft vasculopathy is the result of circumferential intimal thickening due to accelerated smooth muscle proliferation, accumulation of inflammatory cells, and deposition of lipids.[1]CAV is clinically relevant as it is responsible for one in eight deaths beyond one year post OHT.[2]Patients afflicted by CAV most often present with arrhythmia, sudden death, or heart failure; presentation as an acute coronary syndrome is atypical and considered extremely rare. It was interesting that our patient presented with acute anginal symptoms. Due to denervation of the allograph with transplantation, patients may not experience the classical symptoms associated with acute coronary syndrome.

Therefore, there must be a high index of suspicion for transplant patients presenting with vague symptoms, such as dyspnea or fatigue. Our patient did not possess any significant risk factors for atherosclerosis and screening angiography roughly six months prior to her infarct was unremarkable, further making this presentation unusual and unique. In fact, there are few case reports of similar presentations in the published literature.[3-6]The management of CAV includes further optimization of immunosuppression, such as the use of a mammalian target of rapamycin inhibitor (mTORi). mTORi's have been shown to be beneficial when initiated early transplant period.[1]Revascularization, either percutaneously or surgically, is an option for some patients with chronic CAV, however, is not universally associated with improved outcomes.[1,7]Retransplantation can also be considered in highly selected patients.[8]

Conclusions:

CAV is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality late after orthotopic heart transplantation. Acute coronary syndrome is a rare complication of CAV. Patients may not experience the classical symptoms associated with ACS due to allograft denervation. Therefore, there must be a high index of suspicion of ACS in patients with prior transplantation presenting with vague symptoms.

Categories

2nd year Fellow: Case

Program/Institution Name

Ohio State University Hospital

Exploring Cardiac Tumors: A rare case of a hemodynamically significant spindle cell lipoma arising from the pulmonary valve

10

Paul Harnish, Zeid Nesheiwat, Daisy Wu

University of Toledo Medical Center

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Title

Exploring Cardiac Tumors: A rare case of a hemodynamically significant spindle cell lipoma arising from the pulmonary valve

Introduction

We present a 52-year-old male who with a long-standing history of a pulmonary valve mass which ultimately required resection due to increased growth, symptoms, and new biventricular systolic dysfunction. Our objective is to explore the demographics, proposed etiologies, evaluation, and management for benign cardiac neoplasms with a focus on cardiac lipomas. Due to the extreme rarity of physiologically significant cardiac lipomas the optimal management strategy remains unknown.

Case Presentation

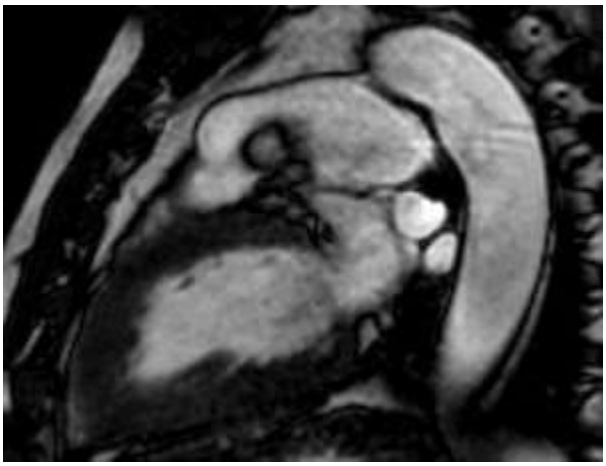
A 52-year-old male was admitted to the hospital with symptoms of light headedness after a routine echocardiogram revealed an enlarging, cystic, mobile mass attached to the pulmonic valve with new biventricular systolic dysfunction. The mass had enlarged from initial discovery a decade prior with prolapse through the annulus. Cardiac MRI further characterized it as a hypermobile 28x32x25 mm growth attached to the posterior leaflet. Cardiac function by MRI was depressed with both a right and left ventricular ejection fraction of 38% decreased from previously normal function on echocardiography. Given interval growth, biventricular systolic dysfunction, and new symptoms surgical intervention was deemed appropriate. The pulmonic valve and associated neoplasm were resected and replaced with a 29 mm St. Jude Trifecta bovine pericardial valve. Pathologic analysis was consistent with a spindle cell lipoma. The patient had an uneventful recovery and follow up cardiac MRI demonstrated improvement in both left and right ventricular systolic function to 56% and 52% respectively with resolution of symptoms.

Discussion

Cardiac tumors remain a very rare clinical entity with an autopsy frequency of 0.001% to 0.030%. The majority of primary cardiac neoplasms are benign. Around 50% are cardiac myxomas, the rest are papillary fibroelastomas, rhabdomyomas, and lipomas. Little is known about the etiology of cardiac lipomas with some studies suggesting a strong genetic component. Valvular involvement is exceedingly rare. Most cardiac lipomas are clinically silent and found incidentally on imaging or at autopsy. True lipomas of the heart account for less than 0.5% of excised tumors. Histologic findings are classic and similar to those for lipomas found elsewhere in the body. Prognosis is typically good with very rare cases associated with hemodynamic compromise or arrhythmia if there is involvement of valvular structures or the conduction system. Complete radiographic evaluation including echocardiography, magnetic resonance imaging, and computed tomography are warranted for non-invasive evaluation.

Conclusion

Benign tumors of the heart including lipomas, especially those with valvular involvement, represent an especially rare and challenging scenario. Every effort should be made to appropriately characterize the lesion in question with both echocardiography and cardiac MRI for a complete functional evaluation. This includes doppler interrogation of any valve in question as well as tissue characterization with contrast enhancement. Because these tumors represent such a small population optimal management remains unknown. In general, benign neoplasms of the heart should be observed conservatively unless implicated in symptoms or enlarge to a point of threatening complications. Treatment is generally surgical excision with preservation of normal cardiac structures.



Categories

2nd year Fellow: Case

Program/Institution Name

University of Toledo

Transcatheter Intervention of an Obstructed Common Right Pulmonary Vein in Repaired Scimitar Syndrome

58

Brittney Hills[1], Arash Salavitabar[2], Brian Boe[1]

[1]Nationwide Children's Hospital. [2]C.S. Mott Children's Hospital

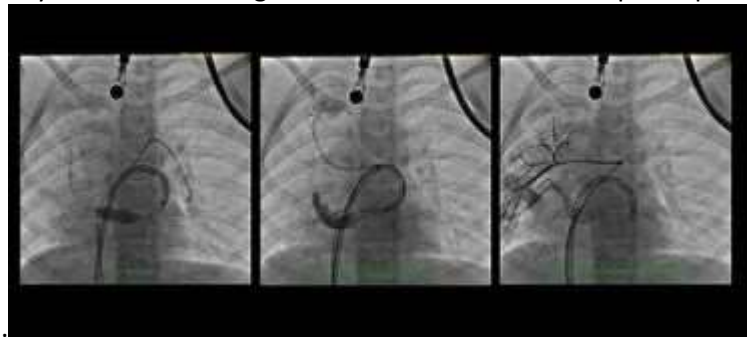
Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Scimitar syndrome is a rare congenital heart defect characterized by right-sided partial anomalous pulmonary venous return (PAPVR) to the inferior vena cava. The surgical repair for Scimitar syndrome and variants of PAPVR vary, but carry a risk of post-operative pulmonary venous obstruction. We report a 6-year-old patient with scimitar syndrome who underwent surgical repair via direct anastomosis of right pulmonary vein to the left atrium. Due to social reasons, she had poor follow up after surgical repair and was seen 14 months post-surgery. Transthoracic echocardiography revealed a mean gradient of 3-6 mmHg across the scimitar vein at the anastomosis site. Cardiac CT scan revealed the lesion measured 1.3 x 1 mm in diameter and the distal vein measured 10 x 10 mm. The patient was referred to interventional cardiology for hemodynamic assessment and treatment of her stenosis. The lesion was accessed using a steerable Agilis™ transseptal sheath (Abbott, Abbott Park, IL) which was curved 180 degrees within the left atrium. She was found to have a mean gradient of 9 mmHg across the lesion and then underwent balloon sizing to understand the compliance of the lesion. A 16 mm Mega LD stent (Medtronic, Dublin, Ireland) mounted on a 12 mm balloon was implanted across the lesion resulting in a residual gradient of 3 mmHg. The patient was placed on aspirin and at one month follow up had a mean gradient of 1mmHg on transthoracic echocardiogram assessment.

This unique case demonstrates the ability to address post-surgical pulmonary venous obstruction in a pediatric patient with Scimitar syndrome in the catheterization laboratory in lieu of the operating room. This procedure was facilitated by the use of a steerable sheath which allowed improved access to the lesion within a relatively small left atrium. To our knowledge, this is the first documented pediatric patient with scimitar syndrome to undergo transcatheter treatment of post-operative pulmonary venous obstruction.



Categories

2nd year Fellow: Case

Program/Institution Name

Nationwide Children's Hospital/Ohio State University

Right Heart Thrombus: An Under-recognized Cause of Sudden Death

31

Semaan Kobrossi, Phoo Nandar, Joseph Pietrolungo, Otto Costantini

Summa Health System

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

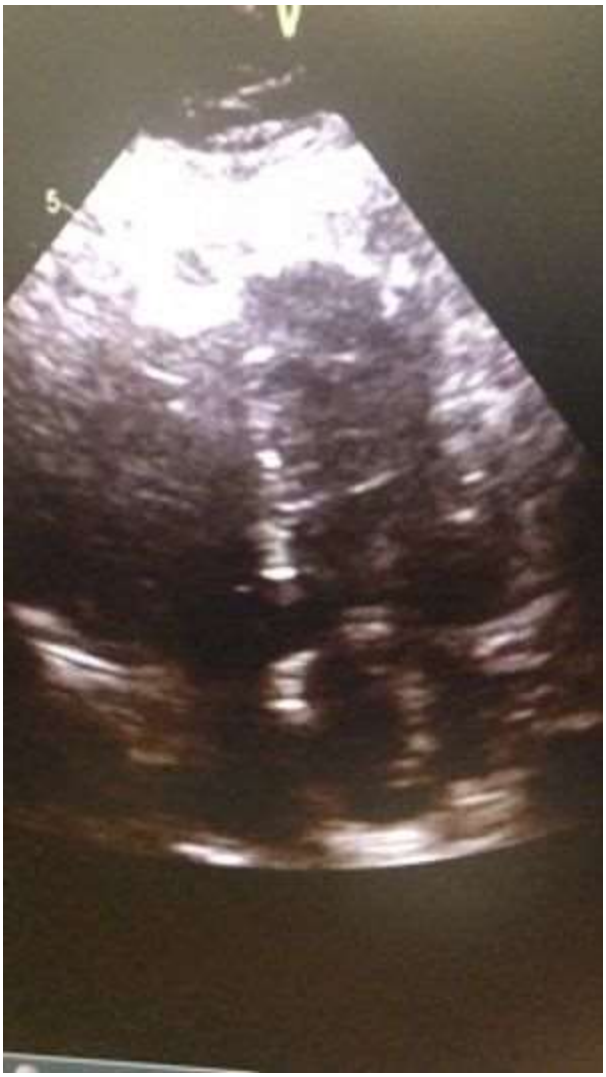
Abstract

Introduction

Right heart thrombi (RHT) are DVTs in transit, temporarily lodged in the RA or RV. They account for 4 % of pulmonary emboli and are associated with increased mortality of 28-40 %. Mortality rates in untreated patients are 80-100 %. Optimal management remains controversial because of the challenges of prospective randomized trials. We present a 60 year old woman who presented with a right heart thrombus and treatment options available.

Case presentation

60 year old woman with hypertension and hyperlipidemia presented to the Emergency Department with 2 days of chest pain and dyspnea on exertion. She had no leg swelling, pain or erythema. She had no risk factors for pulmonary emboli. Patient was chest pain free on presentation. Her blood pressure was 119/96 mmHg, HR 101 bpm and oxygen saturation 98% on room air. EKG showed sinus tachycardia and CXR was clear. Creatinine was elevated at 1.77, Troponin I was elevated at 0.19 and ProBNP was elevated at 13931. Patient was started on Heparin drip for a presumable acute coronary syndrome and admitted to the telemetry floor. She was assessed by the Cardiology fellow overnight. A bedside echocardiogram showed normal LV function, severely dilated RV, RV pressure and volume overload, 2+ TR and a large mobile mass in the RA prolapsing into the RV. Heparin drip was switched to high dose and patient was transferred to the CCU for closer monitoring. Cardiothoracic surgery was consulted and recommended further evaluation. Lower extremities Doppler showed extensive acute left leg DVT. Shortly after arriving to the CCU, she suffered a cardiac arrest. Resuscitative efforts including thrombolysis were not successful at restoring spontaneous circulation. Autopsy showed an extensive thrombus obstructing the RVOT.



Discussion

RHT can be fatal if not recognized in a timely fashion. Treatment options include anticoagulation with Heparin, thrombolysis (systemic or catheter-directed) and surgery. There are no randomized trials comparing the treatment options due to the challenges in randomizing such patients. A systemic review in 2002 by Rose, on 177 patients diagnosed with RHT showed mortality rates of 28.6, 23.8 and 11.3 % with anticoagulation, surgery, and thrombolysis respectively. In another review by Attapan, on 328 patients, the mortality associated with anticoagulation alone was significantly higher than surgical embolectomy or thrombolysis (37.1% vs 18.3% vs 13.7%, respectively). Another report based on a Spanish registry of 325 patients from 2000-2015 showed no difference in mortality between anticoagulation and reperfusion, the latter consisting of surgery or thrombolysis.

Conclusion

RHT is a potentially deadly condition that must be considered in patients with acute pulmonary emboli and diagnosed promptly. The presence of RHT significantly increases mortality. The management remains controversial and a multidisciplinary approach is needed. Some data suggest better outcomes with thrombolysis or surgery vs anticoagulation alone. While treatment should be individualized, aggressive strategies to remove or lyse the thrombus should be paramount.

Categories

2nd year Fellow: Case

Program/Institution Name

Summa Health System/NEOMED

Multiple Floating Thrombi in Aortic Arch Leading to Acute Stroke in a Young Adult: A Case Report and Review of Management

56

Mobasser Mahmood, Hemindermeet Singh, Sindhu Avula, Dilnoor Patti, Syed Sohail Ali

Mercy St Vincent Medical Center

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Introduction

15% of acute cerebrovascular events occur in young adults with age less than 40 years. Trans-esophageal echocardiogram (TEE) is routinely performed to rule out any cardio-embolic source in patients with ischemic stroke. TEE has shown to significantly change management strategy in up to 16.7% of stroke cases. We report a case of recurrent stroke in a young female who was found to have multiple mobile thrombi in aortic arch on TEE. We also review literature for similar cases to highlight the management strategies.

Case Presentation

A 38-year-old female presented with one-week history of right upper and lower extremity paresthesia along with headache. Physical examination was unremarkable for any focal neurological deficits at the time of initial evaluation. She had pertinent history of acute stroke two years ago associated with non-occlusive left common carotid artery thrombus for which she was previously on anticoagulation with rivaroxaban. The anticoagulation, however, was stopped five months ago after repeat imaging revealed complete resolution of thrombus. Electrocardiogram showed normal sinus rhythm without any other significant abnormality. CT head showed no acute bleeding or infarct. MRI brain showed scattered infarcts in right cerebral hemisphere and a larger area of infarct in the left cerebellar hemisphere. CT angiography of head and neck showed multiple small nodular and linear pedunculated thrombi in distal arch of aorta (see Figure 2). TEE was then performed which confirmed two pedunculated and mobile echogenic masses, largest measuring 0.9 x 0.6 cm, in the distal aortic arch (see Figure 1). TEE did not show intracardiac source of embolism. Laboratory work up showed normal blood counts and normal renal function. Testing for thrombophilia was negative for Factor V and Prothrombin gene mutation and heterozygous positive for Methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR)-677T gene. She was also found to have elevated homocysteine levels. She was restarted on anticoagulation with rivaroxaban.

Discussion and Conclusion

Young patients with stroke should undergo detailed investigation to evaluate for hypercoagulable pathology and cardiovascular embolic sources. This should also include multimodality imaging including TEE in the selected patients. During TEE examination, a particular attention should be paid for evaluation of aortic source of thrombo-embolism. Our patient was heterozygous for MTHFR-66T gene which is associated with decreased activity of MTHFR by 35 % with elevated homocysteine levels. Treatment of floating aortic thrombus is controversial. Anticoagulation is suggested as primary modality by multiple authors who reported complete resolution of thrombus. Other option includes surgical thrombectomy. Our patient was treated with anticoagulation alone due to hypercoagulable state and small size of thrombi.

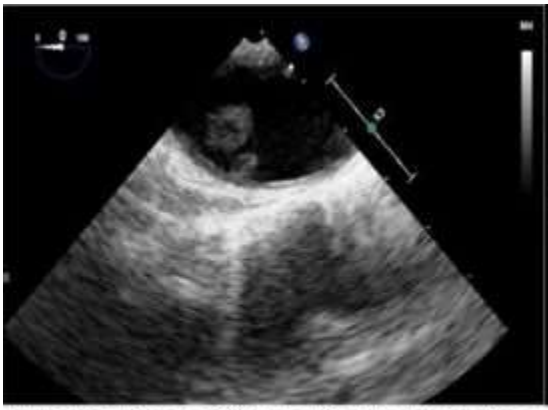


Figure 1: TEE image of distal aortic arch showing two mobile pedunculated masses suggestive of thrombi

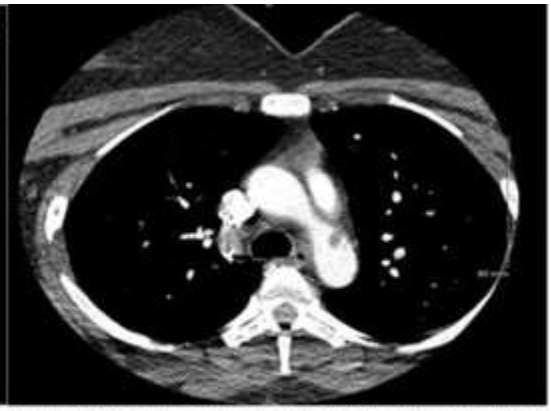


Figure 2 CT angiography showing filling defect in distal aortic arch suggestive of thrombus

Categories

2nd year Fellow: Case

Program/Institution Name

Mercy St Vincent Medical Center

ORAL PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Ventricular Arrhythmia Prevalence and Characteristics for HIV+ Persons and Matched Uninfected Controls

7

Alex Meyer[1], Sanjay Dandamudi[2], Chad Achenbach[3], Frank Pallela[3], Donald Lloyd-Jones[3], Matthew Feinstein[3]

[1]The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. [2]Spectrum Health Heart and Vascular Institute. [3]Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Introduction:

Sudden cardiac death and myocardial fibrosis are common in HIV. No studies to our knowledge have examined the prevalence and morphology of ventricular ectopy or arrhythmia (VEA) for HIV+ versus uninfected persons.

Methods:

We screened 5,041 HIV+ persons and 10,121 uninfected controls (matched 1:2 on demographics and location) at an urban medical center between 2000 and 2016 for VEA using administrative codes. We then reviewed electrocardiographic data to determine (1) whether VEA were present, and (2) VEA morphology (left or right bundle and inferior or superior axis). Prevalence and morphology of VEA were compared by HIV status and markers of HIV severity.

Results:

Of 5041 HIV+ persons, 139 (2.8%) had VEA vs. 165 out of 10121 (1.6%) for controls ($p<0.001$). This association persisted after adjustment for demographics (Odds Ratio [OR] 1.53, 95% Confidence Interval [CI] 1.21-1.94) but was attenuated to non-significance after adjustment for diabetes and hypertension. Compared with HIV+ persons with nadir CD4≥200 cells/mm^3, those with nadir CD4<200 cells/mm^3 had significantly elevated odds of VEA after adjustment for demographics, diabetes, and hypertension (OR 1.65, 95% CI 1.12-2.31). Likewise, each $\log_{10}$ higher peak HIV viral load was associated with a significantly elevated odds of VEA (OR 1.24, 95% CI = 1.07-1.44) after adjustment for demographics, hypertension, and diabetes. Right bundle, superior axis morphology was somewhat more common among HIV+ versus uninfected persons, but this did not reach statistical significance ($p = 0.092$).

Conclusions:

VEA is more common among HIV+ persons but this was attenuated after adjustment for CVD risk factors. Greater HIV viremia and immunosuppression are associated with greater odds of VEA. Compared with uninfected persons, HIV+ persons may more commonly have VEA originating from the left ventricular myocardium, suggesting abnormal myocardial substrate rather than idiopathic outflow tract arrhythmia.

Categories

1st year Fellow: Research

Program/Institution Name

Ohio State University Hospital

Virtual Visits in Cardiac Electrophysiology: Patient and Physician Preference

55

Peter Hu, Henry Hilow, Divyang Patel, Megan Eppich, Khaldoun Tarakji

Cleveland Clinic

Type of submitter

Fellow in Training

Abstract

Background: Cardiologists have long utilized devices to follow patients with arrhythmias in order to guide management. Virtual visits have been adopted as one modality to follow-up established patients with arrhythmias. Factors contributing to patient and physician preferences with virtual visits are unknown. To our knowledge, there are no prior studies that have collected objective feedback from patients and physicians after virtual visits.

Objectives: To determine patient and physician experience with virtual visits in Cardiac

Electrophysiology.

Methods: We performed a prospective survey of patients and physicians who participated in a virtual visit in the Department of Cardiac Electrophysiology at the Cleveland Clinic from December, 2018 and July, 2019. All established patients in the Department of Cardiac Electrophysiology at the Cleveland Clinic who had a virtual visit were invited to partake in our survey. A constructed, standardized phone script and patient survey questionnaire of 15 questions was implemented for each patient. In addition, for each virtual visit encounter the cardiac electrophysiologist who performed the virtual visit was also invited to participate in a separate physician survey.

Results: 100 patient and physician virtual visit encounters were included. The average age of patients who participated in a virtual visit was 65 years old. 70% were male and 30% were female. The average distance patients participated in their virtual visit was 656 miles. Of the 100 patients who participated in a virtual visit, 64 elected to complete a survey, 10 patients declined, 17 patients were unable to be reached on follow-up, and 9 patients were not included due to technical difficulties. Of those who responded, 51 patients participated in their first virtual visit, 4 participated in their second virtual visit, and 8 participated in their third or more virtual visit. 38/64 (59.4%) of patients preferred a virtual visit for their next visit, 12/64 (18.8%) preferred an in office visit, 13/64 (20.3%) responded that their decision for a virtual or office visit depended on their specific needs, 1/64 (1.6%) did not have a preference. A total of 14 cardiac electrophysiologists participated in 100 virtual visits. 9/100 visits were not included due to technical error and inability to complete the virtual visit. Of the 91 virtual visits by physicians, 62/91(68.1%) preferred a virtual visit for their next visit, 7/91 (7.7%) preferred an in office visit, 10/91 (11.0%) responded that their decision for a virtual or office visit depended on the indication

for follow-up, 6/91 (6.6%) did not have a preference, and 6/91 (6.6%) did not indicate their preference for their next visit.

Conclusions: Both patients and physicians showed favorable responses to virtual visits, with a majority of patients and physicians preferring a virtual visit over an in-office visit for their next encounter. Factors such as convenience, cost, feasibility, and reason for follow-up were important determinants that affected both patient and physician preference.

Categories

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