

CASE REPORTS

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Systolic Anterior Motion of the Anterior Mitral Leaflet after Heart Transplantation

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TRANSESOPHAGEAL echocardiography (TEE) is a new tool for the perioperative treatment of cardiac surgery patients. We report a clinical case to illustrate the usefulness of TEE for evaluating morphologic and functional features of a cardiac graft. Mitral regurgitation (MR) secondary to left ventricular outflow tract obstruction with systolic anterior motion (SAM) of the anterior mitral leaflet was diagnosed preoperatively with TEE. Medical treatment of the recipient was changed consequently to prevent hemodynamic deterioration.

Case Report

A 50-yr-old man underwent an orthotopic cardiac transplantation because of a dilated cardiomyopathy. The donor heart was retrieved from a 53-yr-old man who died from a cerebral hemorrhage. The donor had been treated for hypertension. A transthoracic echocardiogram of the donor heart showed a normal left ventricle with normal systolic function and no valvular abnormalities. The donor heart was arrested with cold St Thomas' Hospital cardioplegic solution, excised, and then stored in 4°C cold saline solution.

The recipient was anesthetized with fentanyl (total amount, 80

μg/kg), pancuronium bromide, and midazolam and was monitored with a radial artery, pulmonary artery catheter and standard anesthesia monitors. A TEE was performed with a biplane transesophageal probe (5 MHz, Aloka 870; Aloka CO, Ltd., Tokyo, Japan). The donor heart was grafted according to the standard procedure with atrial anastomoses,¹ but keeping only a small atrial cuff around the four pulmonary vein orifices. Total ischemia time for the graft was 3 h. Weaning from cardiopulmonary bypass was performed using isoproterenol (0.05 μg · kg⁻¹ · min⁻¹). Subsequent hemodynamic measurements showed sinus tachycardia (130 beats/min), systolic blood pressure of 105 mmHg, pulmonary capillary wedge pressure of 14 mmHg, cardiac index of 3.1 l · min⁻¹ · m⁻², and stroke volume of 42 ml. TEE examination showed a hyperkinetic left ventricle with global left ventricle hypertrophy (wall thicknesses of 14, 15, and 15 mm for anterior, septal, and posterior walls, respectively). Color flow mapping demonstrated grade II MR, assessed by the regurgitant jet diameter at the origin (4 mm) and the regurgitant jet area (5 cm²). Bidimensional analysis showed a SAM of the anterior mitral leaflet (fig. 1). Mitral valve anatomy was otherwise normal. Given that medical management (hypovolemia, tachycardia, vasodilation, and enhanced inotropism caused by isoproterenol infusion) might cause or aggravate SAM and MR, isoproterenol infusion was replaced by 10-μg · kg⁻¹ · min⁻¹ dopamine infusion (with expected alpha effects), and 500 ml modified fluid gelatine was quickly infused. Fifteen minutes later, heart rate decreased from 130 to 85 beats/min, cardiac index was 2.8 l · min⁻¹ · m⁻² with a stroke volume of 59 ml, and pulmonary capillary wedge pressure did not change. MR and SAM both completely resolved (fig. 2). The patient remained hemodynamically stable.

The postoperative course was uneventful. Postoperative transthoracic echocardiogram on day 10 showed a left ventricular hypertrophy with normal systolic function and trivial MR with normal mitral valve function.

Discussion

We report a case of MR secondary to SAM of the anterior mitral leaflet after heart transplantation. This phenomenon has been previously described after other surgical procedures, including mitral valve repair and aortic valve replacement.^{2,3} This phenomenon of left ventricular outflow tract obstruction with SAM and MR was initially described in hypertrophic cardiomyopathies with specific anatomic features^{4,5}: a thickened interventricular septum and an anterior and medial displacement of the anterior mitral papillary muscle.

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leading to mitral-septal contact with possible SAM and MR and, finally, mitral leaflet elongation.⁶ Two mechanisms have been proposed for such mitral-septal contact⁷: a flow drag on the protruding mitral leaflet or Venturi effect through a narrowed left ventricle outflow tract. Both mechanisms can be worsened by hemodynamic conditions such as tachycardia, vasodilation, hypovolemia, and increased inotropism. After heart transplantation, common use of the β -adrenergic agonist isoproterenol with resultant vasodilation, tachycardia, and increased myocardial contractility, along with iatrogenic hypovolemia to prevent graft dilation, might cause or aggravate SAM of the anterior mitral leaflet.⁸ Although we did not document it in this case, the timing of recipient atrial contraction may also have a substantial effect on the atrial contribution to left ventricular filling as well as pulmonary venous return.⁹ Intrinsic hypertrophy of the cardiac graft, although not observed on a technically difficult transthoracic echocardiogram, was likely a major predisposing factor for SAM of the anterior mitral leaflet and associated MR. Alterations in medical management elicited by the TEE findings of SAM of the anterior mitral leaflet with associated MR enabled us to correct the MR and prevent possible deterioration in the recipient's hemodynamic status.

Mitral regurgitation has been previously reported on postoperative transthoracic echocardiogram and TEE examinations performed on heart recipients.¹⁰⁻¹² However, the cause was different than in this case. Stevenson *et al.*¹² noted MR in 14 of 16 post-transplant patients and attributed this high rate to surgical techniques that re-

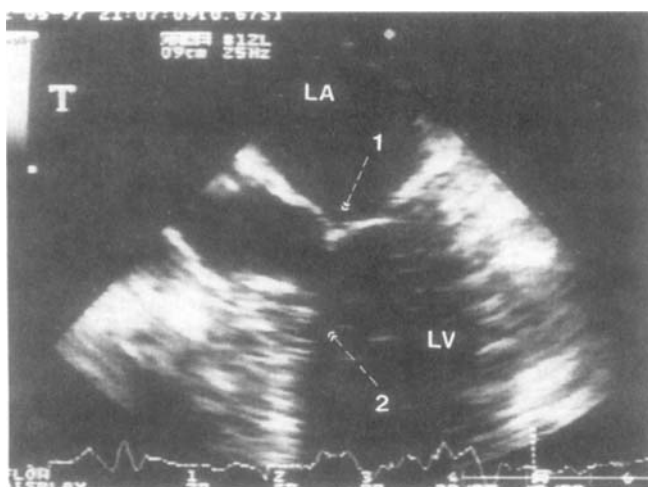


Fig. 1. Transverse view showing the systolic anterior motion of the anterior mitral leaflet (arrow 1) and the interventricular septum hypertrophy (arrow 2). LA = left atrium; LV = left ventricle.

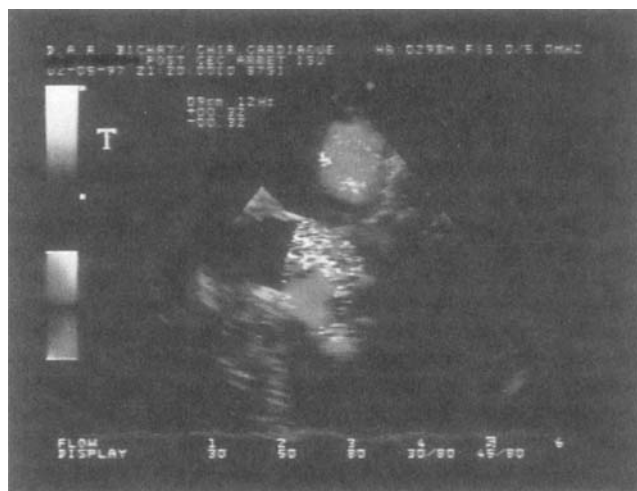


Fig. 2. Transverse view after the medication changes showing no mitral regurgitation.

sulted in an enlarged left atrium with mitral annular dilatation and resultant anuloventricular disproportion. This disproportion was explained as follows: left ventricle is restrictive because of increased contractility due to decreased vagal/tone or higher heart transplant rates; the mitral annulus is dilated in absolute value during the systole and, because of an abnormal geometry of the left atrium, configured as a "snowman" with the actual anastomoses. This anatomic configuration was not observed in our current case because we kept a minimal cuff of left atrium around the pulmonary vein orifices.¹³ Other investigators suggested that multivalvular regurgitation observed after heart transplantation might be a result of mild edema of the cardiac structures.¹⁰ Indeed, they found a significant left ventricular mass reduction within the first postoperative weeks, with a progressive resolution of valvular regurgitation. In a more recent work, the incidence of MR after cardiac transplantation was 48%; MR was mild and correlated with neither hemodynamic indices nor atrial distortion, by contrast with tricuspid regurgitation.¹¹ Taken together, all of these works show that MR is frequent after heart transplantation; nevertheless, the mechanism often remains controversial.

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Case of Cowden's Disease that Caused Airway Obstruction during Induction of Anesthesia

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COWDEN'S disease, known also as multiple hamartoma syndrome, is a rare, predominantly inherited condition characterized by various ecto-, meso-, and endodermal benign and malignant tumors that may affect the skin; oropharyngeal, laryngeal, and gastrointestinal mucosa; thyroid; breast; and other organs.^{1,2} We report a case of airway obstruction during induction of general anesthesia

caused by the presence of extended multiple papillomas on the lingual tonsils, epiglottis, and the surrounding structure, for which a diagnosis of Cowden's disease was made postoperatively.

Case Report

A 55-yr-old woman was scheduled for elective mastectomy for cancer of the right breast. At the age of 12 yr, the patient had undergone bilateral tonsillectomy. Three years later, she underwent surgery for chronic sinusitis. At age 27 yr, she underwent partial thyroidectomy for benign adenomatous changes in the right lobe of the thyroid gland. The patient denied having had any complications from previous anesthesia. Preoperative plain radiograph and computed tomography images showed a giant adenoma in the left lobe of the thyroid gland that did not show any signs of compressing the trachea. The patient had neither history of decreased activity nor any obvious breathing difficulty.

Anesthesia was induced with intravenous propofol (1.2 mg/kg) and vecuronium (0.1 mg/kg). While performing tracheal intubation, visualization of the hypopharynx by direct laryngoscopy showed a mass of tumors occupying the airway. The epiglottis and the surrounding structures could not be identified because of the presence of numerous

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