Incidental Left Ventricular Pseudoaneurysm Discovered 5 Years after Myocardial Infarction

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Case Report

GA 65 year-old man was admitted to the intensive care unit with candida sepsis. A suspected pulmonary etiology prompted a contrast enhanced Computed Tomography (CT) scan of the chest. CT revealed dilated cardiomyopathy, lateral and apical myocardial wall thinning, diffuse coronary artery calcifications, and a large, calcified left ventricular pseudoaneurysm arising from the basal lateral myocardial wall. Five years prior, the patient was diagnosed with Myocardial Infarction (MI) of the circumflex and first diagonal coronary arteries, which was managed medically. There was no record of subsequent free wall rupture or pseudoaneurysm formation.

Left ventricular (LV) pseudoaneurysms are rare, frequently asymptomatic and often fatal when left untreated. Unlike a true LV aneurysm, a LV pseudoaneurysm contains no endocardium or myocardium. LV pseudoaneurysm is most commonly the result of a transmural acute MI when myocardial rupture is contained by pericardial adhesions or scar tissue. Diagnosis can be complicated because patients usually present with symptoms similar to coronary artery disease [1]. CT accurately delineates the extent of a LV pseudoaneurysm and allows for assessment of both intra-cardiac and extra-cardiac anatomy. Owing to the risk of subsequent fatal rupture, regardless of chronicity [2], surgery is often recommended [3]. Surgical repair provides good symptomatic relief and long-term survival in case of dyskinetic or akinetic left ventricular aneurysm: results obtained with a modified linear closure. [J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 121: 675-682.

Figure 1: Volume-rendered 3D reconstructions of the chest (A) and heart (B) display a large pseudoaneurysm of the basal lateral left ventricle (arrows). Calcifications are apparent (arrowheads). Coronal (C), four-chamber (D) and short axis (E) views of the heart again illustrate a large pseudoaneurysm arising from the left ventricle (arrows) with diffuse calcifications (arrowheads).

References

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