CASE REPORT

Obstructive Right Atrial Lipoma

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Abstract: Primary benign cardiac tumors are very rare and only 8.4% of them are cardiac lipomas. We report a case of a 67-year-old female patient who diagnosed with right atrial free wall lipoma on echocardiography and tomography. The patient underwent cardiovascular surgery unit for tumor resection.

Introduction: Primary cardiac tumors are rare and 75% of them are benign. Only 8.4% of all primary cardiac benign tumors represent as a cardiac lipoma (1). They can occur in a wide age group and incidence is equal in both genders. Usually, they are asymptomatic but also they can manifest with dyspnea, arrhythmias and embolism due to the location of the tumor in the cardiac cavity. 50% of the cardiac lipomas origin from subendocardial, 25% are intramyocardial and 25% are epicardial (2). The right atrium and left ventricle are mostly founding locations of cardiac lipomas (3).

Case Report: A 67-year-old female patient presented with worsening dyspnea with a 1-year history. Her past medical history included essential hypertension only. There were no significant findings in physical examination and electrocardiography. Transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) showed a 52x31mm intracavitary homogenous mass located in the free right atrial wall that closes the orifice of the superior vena cavae (Figure.1). Then cardiac computed tomography (CCT) was scanned for strengthening the diagnosis (Figure.2). After the non-invasive investigation, cardiac lipoma was the diagnosis firstly. The patient redirected to the cardiovascular surgery unit.

Discussion: Lipomas of the heart are benign tumors that usually asymptomatic and their diagnosis is often incidental on TTE, CCT or cardiac magnetic resonance (4). The right atrium and left ventricle are the most frequent intracardiac locations (5). In symptomatic patients surgical approach is justified, however treatment in asymptomatic patients is a dilemma and there are no randomized clinical trials to guide the disease and treatment (6).

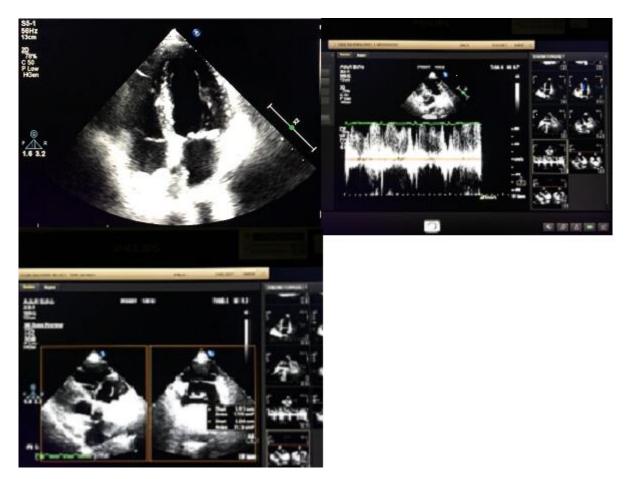
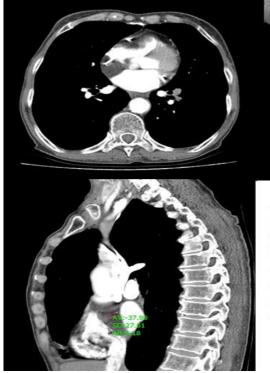


Figure 1.

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Axial, coronal and sagittal plane contrast enhanced computed tomography images showing lipid dancity mass in the right atrium which is narrowing ostium vena cava superior.

Figure 2.

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