A giant left atrium with two huge thrombi without embolic complications

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A 72-year-old woman with a past history of rheumatic mitral valve stenosis was admitted due to a complaint of shortness of breath. Echocardiography revealed mitral stenosis, with a valve area of 1 cm^2 and moderate mitral regurgitation. A giant left atrium ($10 \text{ cm} \times 12 \text{ cm}$ in size) containing two huge thrombi ($5 \text{ cm} \times 7 \text{ cm}$ and $3 \text{ cm} \times 3 \text{ cm}$ in size, respectively) was noted (Figures 1A and 1B). The patient was not taking warfarin and, fortunately, had not developed thromboembolic complications. Because the patient did not wish to have surgical intervention, medical therapy with warfarin, a diuretic and a beta-blocker was

prescribed. Neither an embolic event nor a cardiac decompensation had occurred during one year of follow-up.

A giant left atrium is defined as having a diameter larger than 8 cm , and is typically found in patients who have rheumatic mitral valve disease. The prevalence of rheumatic heart disease has decreased considerably in developed countries, thus, a giant left atrium is a rare entity in the current era (1).

REFERENCE

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Figure 1 A Echocardiography showing a giant left atrium (LA) containing two huge thrombi (arrows). Note the size of the thrombus attached to the lateral wall of the giant LA (B). LV Left ventricle; RA Right atrium

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