Letters to the Editor

RUPTURE SINUS OF VALSALVA

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the case report Aneurysm of sinus of Valsalva dissecting into interventricular septum (Gp Capt Akthar M, *et al* Medical Journal Armed Forces India 1994; 50 : 149-150).

I wish to share my experience with a case of rupture sinus of Valsalva having a different presentation from the one cited in the article.

Case Report : A 22 year aged Ordnance Factory worker was symptomatic for five years with exertional dyspnea, palpitations and anginal chest pain. He was being managed as a case of rheumatic heart disease and aortic regurgitation, with diuretics and digoxin. In Feb 93, patient had a sudden increase in chest pain and dyspnea. These symptoms abated with rest but subsequently he noticed considerable decrease in his effort tolerance. He was then referred to our hospital, where clinical examination revealed a collapsing pulse, wide pulse pressure and a continuous murmur heard all over the precordium with maximal intensity over the left third interspace. Electrocardiogram revealed biventricular hypertrophy with left ventricular diastolic overload. X-ray chest showed cardiomegaly with prominent pulmonary conus. Echocardiography (Fig. 1) showed aneurysm of right coronary sinus with rupture into right ventricular out-

flow tract (RVOT). In colour doppler, flow was seen from the aorta into RVOT.

The patient's symptoms subsided with bed rest, diuretics and vasodilators. He was later referred to a cardiovascular institute for repair of the fistula. The patient survived the sudden rupture probably because the rupture was less rapid and the size of the abnormal communication was not large enough to produce immediate cardiovascular decompensation [1].

This patient had the more common variety of sinus of Valsalva aneurysm [2]. However, as mentioned in the article, the diagnosis could only be made by incidental echocardiography.

REFERENCES

1. Perloff JK. Congenital heart disease in adult. In : Braunwald E. *Heart Disease A textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine* 4th ed. Philadelphia : WB Saunders, 1992 : 970.
2. Bouteffou JM, Moral PR, Hahn C, Hauf E. Aneurysm of the sinus of Valsalva. Report of seven cases and review of literature. *Am J Med* 1978; 65 : 18-24.

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Fig. 1 : Sinus aneurysm of right coronary sinus with rupture into right ventricular outflow tract (RVOT)