CORRESPONDENCE

The Prevalence of Glaucoma in Young People

Findings of the Population-Based Gutenberg Health Study

by Dr. med. Susanne Marx-Gross, Dr. rer. nat. Dagmar Laubert-Reh, Dr. rer. physiol. Astrid Schneider, Dr. med. René Höhn, Prof. Dr. med. Alireza Mirshahi, Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Münzel, Prof. Dr. med. Philipp S. Wild, Prof. Dr. med. Manfred E. Beutel, Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Maria Blettner, and Prof. Dr. med. Norbert Pfeiffer in issue 12/2017

Increase in Glaucoma Patients

The article “The Prevalence of Glaucoma in Young People” of the Gutenberg Health Study (1) is of great general interest, as glaucoma is a common disease that cannot always be successfully treated. The authors Cook and Foster (2) report that there are more than 60 million people (worldwide) with glaucomatous optic atrophy, and 8.4 million with glaucoma-related blindness.

It is to be assumed that the Gutenberg Health Study refers mainly to European Caucasians (i.e. to people from European countries). In the context of immigrants to Central Europe from Asian and African countries, data showing higher frequency of disease are expected, especially in Germany. For instance, people of Asian descent were found to be significantly more likely to have open-angle glaucoma than those of European descent (2).

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Conflict of interest statement

The author declares that no conflict of interest exists.

The authors of the article have chosen not to reply.

CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

A Stabbing Injury to the Chest from a Letter Opener

A 42-year-old man was admitted to the resuscitation bay of the emergency room after stabbing himself in the chest multiple times with a letter opener in an attempt to commit suicide. Computerized tomography revealed hemopericardium and left hemothorax; a chest drain was inserted at once, and a massive quantity of blood flowed out.

An emergency sternotomy was performed, and a tautly distended pericardium was found; when the pericardium was longitudinally incised, blood shot out of it (*Figure, Video*). The causative defect, a stab wound in the muscular area of the left ventricle lying proximally and parallel to the anterior interventricular branch of the left coronary artery, was closed with a through-and-through 3-0 polypropylene suture.

Bleeding from the left hemithorax persisted because of stab injuries to the intercostal arteries, which were addressed through an anterolateral thoracotomy.

Coagulopathy had developed because of the massive blood loss; the pleural cavity was tamponaded and the bony hemithorax was left open to prevent compartment syndrome. The surgical opening was covered only with a sterile plastic sheet sewn to the skin. The chest was definitively closed on the next day. The patient recovered without further complications or permanent injuries and was referred for psychiatric care.

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Video: www.aerzteblatt-international.de/17m0558