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A Mobile Thrombus in a Saphenous Vein Graft

Rajesh Sachdeva, MD

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, 4300 W. 7th Street, Little Rock, AR 72205

Address for correspondence:
Rajesh Sachdeva, MD
Central Arkansas
Veterans Healthcare System,
4300 W. 7th Street,
Little Rock, AR 72205
Rsachdeva@uams.edu

Figure 1. LAO view of saphenous vein graft to left posterolateral branch showing mobile thrombus attached to the stenotic ostium.

A 63-year-old black male with history of type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and coronary artery disease, whose status was post-3-vessel coronary artery bypass surgery 18 years ago, presented with non-ST-elevation myocardial infarction. On angiography a mobile thrombus in the ostium of the saphenous vein graft to the left posterolateral artery was seen. Percutaneous intervention

Figure 2. A 2.2 cm long thrombus aspirated with export catheter after percutaneous intervention.

using a Guardwire distal protection device (Medtronic, Inc., Minneapolis, MN) was performed. A 2.2 cm long thrombus was aspirated (Figures 1 and 2). A number of thrombectomy and distal protection devices have been developed to limit distal embolization during percutaneous coronary interventions¹ and may prove to be a useful strategy as in our case.

Reference

1. Schrale R, Choudhury RP, Forfar C: Effective thrombus extraction strategies in acute saphenous vein graft intervention. *Heart.* 2007;93(8):921.