Images in Cardiology

This section edited by Edward A. Geiser, M.D.

Pericardial Cyst

FIG. 1 (A) Chest x-ray showing expansive mass along the left heart border. (B) T1-weighted spin-echo image showing the lesion to be clearly distinct from the myocardium. (C) T2-weighted spin-echo image showing the very high intensity of the lesion.

Chest x-ray (Fig. 1A) of a 30-year-old man who presented with upper respiratory symptoms was taken. He denied any chest discomfort, dyspnea, or systemic symptoms. An oval and regular expansive mass was seen along the left heart border (arrow). An echocardiogram (not shown) revealed a cystic lesion adjacent to the lateral wall of the left ventricle. In the absence of any related symptoms, the presumptive diagnosis was that of a pericardial cyst in spite of the usual location being at the right cardiophrenic angle. Because of this atypical location, magnetic resonance imaging was performed. The T1-weighted spin-echo image (B) showed that the lesion was of a slightly lesser intensity than the myocardium and clearly distinct from it. The relation of the lesion with the pericardium is well shown (arrow). The very high intensity and homogeneity of the lesion (arrow) on the T2-weighted spin-echo image (C) was consistent with a simple pericardial cyst.

Consequently, the patient is simply being followed on a regular basis. Nine months after the diagnosis, he remains asymptomatic.

Reference

Viney P, Stover B, Sigmund G, Laubenberger J, Havenstein KH, Weyrich G, Hennig J: MR imaging of the pericardial cyst. *J Magn Reson Imaging* 1992;2:593-596

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