CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Large Caseating Calcification of the Mitral Valve Ring

An 89-year-old woman presented with angina pectoris and troponin activation, indicating the occurrence of a non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction. Coronary angiography showed a coronary 3-vessel disease and a contraction-synchronous radiopaque structure approximately 2 × 3 cm in size projected onto the right atrium. Echocardiography carried out after percutaneous coronary intervention demonstrated a probably extracardial echo-dense structure in the area of the posterior mitral valve ring. Subsequent computed tomography with intravenous administration of contrast medium found a 3 × 3 × 4 cm saucer-shaped calcified mass (→) with hyperdense content (*), a “caseating calcification of the mitral valve ring”. These calcifications typically manifest in elderly women as a rounded, smoothly delineated mass (→) of the posterior mitral valve ring, calcified on the periphery, with central liquid necrosis (*). This represents a rare form of mitral annular calcification of uncertain pathophysiology. Because the caseating calcification of the mitral valve ring caused no symptoms (mitral valve failure/stenosis, cardiac arrhythmias, systemic emboli) in our patient, no treatment was given in this regard.

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