Silent Inflammation of an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Shiro Nakamori¹, Mashio Nakamura², Katsuya Onishi¹ and Masaaki Ito¹

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Picture 1.

Picture 3.

Picture 2.

¹Department of Cardiology, Mie University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan and ²Department of Clinical Cardiovascular Research, Mie University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan

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Correspondence to Dr. Shiro Nakamori, shironakamori@gmail.com

The following images are from a 67-year-old asymptomatic man who was undergoing a routine medical checkup. Positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) images demonstrated intense activity clearly corresponding to the salivary gland. The peri-aortic soft tissue abnormality seen on the PET/CT, is a 3.5 cm infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysm (Picture 1). Although laboratory examination revealed no elevated levels of erythrocyte sedimentation rate or C-reactive protein, arterial wall thickening showed homogeneous enhancement at the late phase of

contrast-enhanced CT, indicating an active inflammatory process (Picture 2). To control the peri-aneurysmal inflammation, the patient was treated with prednisone 30 mg daily. A two-month follow-up PET/CT showed a marked decrease in the aortic wall thickness and complete resolution of hypermetabolic activity (Picture 3). Currently, the prednisone is being tapered off and the patient was asymptomatic at his 2 year follow-up visit.

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