Multiple Aortic Thrombosis Successfully Treated Using Pharmacotherapy

Kenta Hachiya, Tomonori Sugiura, Yasuaki Dohi and Nobuyuki Ohte

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A 73-year-old man was admitted to our hospital to receive treatment for thyroid malignant lymphoma. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) prior to admission showed no abnormalities in the aorta (Picture 1). After receiving chemotherapy for one week, the patient complained of left abdominal pain. His platelet level was decreased (95,000/μL) and the levels of C-reactive protein (5.89 mg/dL), fibrinogen (431 mg/dL) and D-dimer (2.6 mg/dL) were elevated. The CT scan revealed splenic infarction and the presence of multiple aortic thrombi (in the aortic arch, at the level of the celiac artery and proximal to the aortic bifurcation) (Picture 2). Multiple aortic thrombosis is a very rare condition, and very few cases of even single aortic thrombosis have been reported (1, 2). Moreover, the therapeutic strategy is controversial and the underlying etiology is not yet clear. Taking into consideration the high risk of the operation that would be required to treat multiple areas of thrombosis, we chose instead pharmacotherapy consisting of an anticoagulant and an antiplatelet. All of the aortic thrombi disappeared after one month of therapy, and have not reoccurred with continuing treatment (Picture 3).

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References