Left Atrial Myxoma Incidentally Discovered on Transesophageal Echocardiography

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A 77-year-old woman with congestive heart failure due to rapid atrial fibrillation (AF) was admitted to our hospital. Although we were unable to detect a tumor on transthoracic echocardiography, transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) performed to evaluate a thrombus in the left atrium (LA) incidentally disclosed a cardiac mass measuring 10×8 mm (Picture). Suspecting the lesion to be a myxoma, we referred the patient to the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at our related hospital, where tumor resection was performed. The cardiac tumor was pathologically diagnosed as a myxoma.

A previous study reported that myxomas in the elderly are difficult to diagnose based on their clinical presentation (1). The number of patients with AF is expected to increase in Japan due to the rapidly aging population (2). The increased use of TEE to evaluate suspected thrombi in the LA in elderly AF patients may help to improve the rate of discovery of atrial myxomas.

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

References


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