Mitral Valve Rupture Following CABG and PDA Endarterectomy: A Rare and Potentially Lethal Complication

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Abstract: Mitral valve rupture is a very rare and lethal complication following coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). We report in this paper a case of mitral valve rupture ninety hours following CABG and coronary endarterectomy and we review the literature for similar cases in order to determine the different etiologies and mechanisms that may precipitate such serious adverse event and to define the measures that will help us diagnosing and treating promptly this complication.

Keywords: Mitral Valve Rupture, CABG, Coronary Endarterectomy, TEE

1. Introduction

Mitral valve rupture is a very rare but fatal complication following coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). Rupture frequently occurs two to seven days after myocardial infarction and may lead to death within 24 hours unless surgical repair is carried out rapidly.

We report in this paper a case of mitral valve rupture four days after CABG with endarterectomy and we review the literature for similar cases in order to elucidate the mechanism of rupture and the different etiologies that may precipitate such complications. We also discuss the measures that may help diagnosing early this adverse event and treat it in its initial phase.

2. Case Report

A 71 y old male was admitted to our hospital for CABG. He was a known diabetic, hypertensive and dyslipidemic on oral medications. A cardiac catheterization done after a positive stress test showed 3 vessels disease.

A CT scan of the chest revealed a 4.5 cm ascending aorta and a cardiac echography showed a normal ejection fraction, trace mitral regurgitation (MR) and mild aortic regurgitation (AR).

He underwent a CABG where a left internal mammary artery (LIMA) to left anterior descending artery (LAD) was grafted as well as a reverse savenous vein (RSV) to obtuse marginal (OM) and posterior descending artery (PDA). To note that an endarterectomy to the PDA was done before grafting the vein due to severe calcifications.

He was transferred to the coronary surgery unit (CSU). Two hours post operatively a ST elevation in the inferior leads was noticed without any hemodynamic instability. An infusion of nitroglycerine was started and antiplatelets medications were administered 5 hours post operatively. The blood pressure was maintained above 130/80 mm Hg. A follow up EKG few hours later showed Q waves in
The patient was stable clinically and hemodynamically and was extubated in the morning after. On day two post operatively he was transferred to the floor with a smooth post operative course. On day four (90 hrs post operatively) he developed a sudden and severe dyspnea with desaturation and a drop in blood pressure (80/60 mm Hg). Chest X ray showed severe lung congestion. The patient was transferred back to the CSU and intubated. Inotropes (dopamine 10 to 15 mcra) and lasix were started. A central line and a swan gantz were inserted. The pulmonary artery pressure (PAP) ranged between 50 an60 mm Hg, the wedge showed a v wave and was around 20 mm Hg and the cardiac index was 1.8. The mixed venous saturation was very low (38%). Transthoracic echography (TTE) showed severe mitral regurgitation. Transesophageal echography (TEE) revealed a ruptured chordae to the anterior leaflet of the mitral valve (MV) with flair A2 which was responsible for the severe mitral regurgitation. The papillary muscle appeared intact. The left ventricle (LV) was hyperkinetic with hypokinesis of the basal and mid inferior segments. The pulmonary artery (PA) pressure was estimated to be around 50 mm Hg.

The patient was taken to the operating room (OR) urgently where a mitral valve replacement with a mechanical valve and CABG to the PDA were done. Intraoperatively we found a ruptured chordae tendinae of the anterior leaflet at its insertion at the posteromedial papillary muscle. There was necrosis of the tip of the papillary muscle at the insertion site. On the other hand the graft to the PDA was occluded.

The patient was retransferred to the CSU on inotropes (dopamine 10 mcra/kg/mn and neosynephrine 30 mcra/mn). The PAP dropped to 28mm Hg and the cardiac index increased to 2.5. Despite a relative stable cardiac state the patient had a complicated post operative course due to pneumonia and acute tubular necrosis (ATN) which necessitated prolonged intubation for 10 days, antibiotics and few sessions of dialysis.

He was discharged from the hospital 20 days post operatively after a full respiratory and kidney recovery.

3. Discussion

Mitrail valve rupture following CABG is an extremely rare event. Literature is being limited to very few similar cases. Baladi et al reported 3 cases in whom papillary muscle rupture occurred in one to three days after successful CABG. In all three patients the antero papillary muscle was involved. (Table 1)

Prompt reoperation was succesfuly carried out in all patients. Mitrail valve replacement was achieved in two cases and mitral valve repair was done in the third patient [1].

Benedetto et al described a fourth case of anteropapillary muscle rupture after a CABG which was diagnosed in its early phase by performing an intra operative TEE following weaning of cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB)(2). In fact shortly after going offbypass the patient became unstable. His blood pressure dropped to 50 mm Hg and the wedge pressure increased from 12 to 20 mmHg. An intra aortic ballon was inserted and high doses of inotropic drugs started (adrenaline 0.1 mcra/kg/mn and noradrenaline 0.2 mcra /kg/mn). TEE was immediately performed. It showed a new onset of moderate to severe mitral regurgitation with prolapse of both mitral leaflets predominately the posterior one and a partial rupture of the antero lateral papillary muscle. CPB was reestablished and the mitral valve was successfully replaced. To note that the surgical view confirmed the TEE findings. (Table 1)

### Table 1. Clinical features and characteristics of 4 patients reported to have developed mitral valve rupture following CABG.

| Patients | Paper reference | Sexe | Age | Per op MI | Per op MI | Post op MI | PM rupture | Days pos op |
|----------|-----------------|------|-----|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1        | Baladi et al    | M    | 65y | Lateral wal MI |  | AL | 2 |
| 2        | Baladi et al    | M    | 72y | Inferior MI |  | AL | 1 |
| 3        | Baladi et al    | M    | 73y | Inferior MI |  |  | 3 |
| 4        | Benedetto et al | F    | 70y | Antero-septal MI |  |  | Per op |

M:Male,F: Female,MI:Myocardial infarction, PM: Papillary muscle, AL: Anterolateral, op: operatively.

In our case, the patient developed an inferior myocardial infarction few hours post CABG and PDA endarterectomy without any hemodynamic changes. Ninety hours post operatively he became unstable and developed pulmonary edema. A TEE performed revealed a ruptured anterior chordae to the anterior leaflet at flair A2 which was responsible for severe mitral regurgitation surprisingly the papillary muscles appeared intact. The patient was reoperated for mitral valve replacement and a CABG to the PDA since the vein that was grafted on the PDA earlier was occluded by a thrombus.

The cause of this uncommon event is speculative. In order to understand the cause and mechanism of mitral rupture it is very important to understand the anatomy of the mitral valve apparatus. The valve itself comprises an anterior and a posterior leaflet. Valvular competence is maintained by the two papillary muscles (antero lateral (AL) and posteromedial (PM)) that are attached to the leaflets via the chordae tendinae. Typically the AL muscle is a single large structure whereas the PM muscle can have one to three heads. To note that the two papillary muscles send chordae to both leaflets of the mitral valve. As a result either leaflet can be affected by rupture of either papillary muscle [3]. On the other hand, blood supply to the AL muscle is usually supplied by the LAD and the circumflex arteries whereas the PM is supplied by the RCA. Rupture of the PM muscle is more common because of its single blood supply [3]. However many cases of unusual blood supply to the mitral valve papillary muscles have been reported. Hattori et al described a case of unusual perfusion of the LAD to posterior papillary muscle while Stefanovski et al reported a rupture of the AL papillary muscle following isolated distal RCA occlusion [4-5]. On the other hand, Okamoto et al described two cases in which occlusion of...
mitral valve rupture occurred in all cases after ischemic insults that occurred before, during or after surgery. Most of the cases reported were CABG to both left and right systems. In our patient, grafts were achieved to the LAD, OM and PDA artery bypass grafting with severe coronary disease and in whom a coronary endarterectomy is performed. Finally, additional cases of mitral valve rupture following coronary artery bypass grafting are needed in order to clarify issues that are still debatable concerning etiology and mechanisms so that we can improve our practice and management.

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