Hamartoma of mature cardiomyocytes in right atrium
A case report and literature review

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Abstract
Rationale: Tumors in the heart are rare. Myxomas, rhabdomyomas, and fibromas are the most common benign cardiac tumors. Hamartoma of mature cardiomyocytes (HMCM) is another benign cardiac tumor, are very rare and have only been reported in a few literatures.

Patient concerns: We report a case of 41-year-old male who suffered short of breath for 3 years, and lower limbs edema for 2 years.

Diagnoses: Transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) and cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) showed a large amount of pericardial effusion and confirmed a mass of $18 \times 14$ mm on the superior vena cava near the outer edge of right atrium. The patient was first diagnosed as pleural mesothelioma. Surgery was performed to relieve the symptoms and confirm diagnoses. However, during surgery, we found the right atrium is apparently thicken with rough and uneven surface. Histology of right atrium mass indicated it as hamartoma of mature cardiomyocytes.

Intervention: We resected the thicken atrial wall completely, reconstructed right atrium with bovine pericardial patch, and resected the pericardium.

Outcomes: Patient was discharged 9 days after surgery, and remained asymptomatic during 9 months follow up.

Lessons: Hamartoma of mature cardiomyocytes is a rare benign cardiac tumor. There were 26 cases reported until now. The conclusive diagnosis depends on pathological sections. For patients with symptoms, surgery is an effective treatment for HMCM.

Abbreviations: CMR = cardiac magnetic resonance, HMCM = hamartoma of mature cardiomyocytes, TTE = transthoracic echocardiogram.

Keywords: benign tumor, heart tumor, hematoma of mature cardiomyocytes

1. Introduction
Tumors in the heart are rare. Myxomas, rhabdomyomas, and fibromas are the most common benign cardiac tumors.\textsuperscript{[1,2]} Hamartoma of mature cardiomyocytes (HMCM), which is another benign cardiac tumor, is very rare and have only been reported in a few literature.

In this article, we reported a case of HMCM, in whom the mass located in right atrium. Meanwhile, we analyzed all the cases about HMCM until now, and discussed the features and treatments of the tumor. Patient has provided informed consent for publication of the case.

2. Case report
A 41-year-old-male had suffered short of breath after regular activity for 3 years, and lower limbs edema for 2 years. From February 2018, the symptoms were getting worse. Patient suffered short of breath even at rest and had orthopnea. A large amount of pericardial effusion was found by transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) and cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) showed a large amount of pericardial effusion and confirmed a mass of $18 \times 14$ mm on the superior vena cava near the outer edge of right atrium (Fig. 1A). Positron emission tomography-computed tomography (PET-CT) showed increased glucose metabolism on the superior vena cava near the
outer edge of right atrium. The patient was first diagnosed as pleural mesothelioma.

To relieve heart compression and confirm the diagnosis, we performed surgery. During the surgery, we found the pericardial cavity was enlarged with a large amount of yellow effusion. However, instead of mass outside the heart, we found the right atrium and right atrium appendage were apparently thicker. And the surface was rough and uneven. Intraoperative transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) showed the right atrium free wall was apparently thickened. We got a small piece of right atrium tissue, and sent it for pathology examination. HE staining showed the mass contained mainly haphazardly arranged adult cardiomyocytes with enlarged nucleus. Fibrous tissue and leukomonocytes were found among the myofibers (Fig. 4). The pathological findings indicated it as hamartomas of mature cardiac myocytes (HMCM). Under cardiac-pulmonary bypass, we incised the right atrium, and found the mass was palpable around the right atrial appendage and the right atrioventricular sulcus with the size of $8 \times 4$ cm (Fig. 3). We resected the mass to normal atrial tissue, reconstructed right atrium with bovine pericardial patch, and resected the pericardium (Fig. 2B). Postoperative echocardiography and MRI indicated the mass
was completely resected. The patient was discharged 10 days after surgery, and had no symptoms or pericardial effusion during 9 months follow up.

3. Discussion

Hamartoma of mature cardiac myocytes (HMCM) is a rare benign cardiac tumor. The pathological changes were first described in 1988. However, the term of HMCM was first raised by Burke et al. The lesion is characterized by disorganized hypertrophic mature myocytes with variable interstitial fibrosis and adiposity and thick-walled arteries.

We reviewed PubMed and MEDLINE databases from March 1947 to Oct 2018 with the key words “cardiac” or “heart” and “hamartoma”, and a total of 25 patients affected by HMCM were identified. We analyzed all patients reported and the case in this article. The tumor can affect all age groups, with mean age of 32 ± 22.5 years (range 9 months to 76 years). Males were mainly affected (62%, 16/26).

The 46% patients (12/26) are asymptomatic. In these patients, lesions are found by autopsy or incidentally in heart examination or in other cardiac surgery. For the patients with symptoms, the most common symptom is chest pain or chest tightness (35%, 9/26). Others include palpitation (19%, 5/26), dyspnea (15%, 4/26), dizziness (8%, 2/26), and syncope (4%, 1/26). Pericardial effusion is found in 4 patients (15%, 4/26), in whom tumors all locate in the right side of heart.

In most cases, HMCM is a single mass, and can locate in the left heart (46%, 12/26), right heart (35%, 9/26), interventricular septum (8%, 2/26). Multiple lesions are found in 3 cases. The size of tumor varies from 1 to 91 mm.

ECG changes are found in most patients (65%, 17/26), including T waves depression, ST-T changes, premature atrial and ventricular contraction, ventricular, or supraventricular tachycardia. However, the changes are varied and usually nonspecific. Echocardiography can identify most of the mass, except 1 case, in which, the tumor is too small, around 1 cm. Cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) and computed tomography can provide precise information about mass size and location. However, since the morphology of HMCM varies and can be well circumscribed or infiltrated to normal myocardium, it is difficult to distinguish it from other cardiac lesions, such as fibroma, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, or rhabdomyoma just by CMR.

Conclusive diagnosis of HMCM is pathological section. Under microscopic views, although fibrous tissue and adipose tissue can be found in the mass, however, unlike fibroma, typical HMCM mass is predominately consist of cardiomyocytes. Cells of

Figure 3. The mass was completely resected with the size of 8 × 4 cm. (A) The surface of mass was tough and uneven. (B) Arrangement of pectinate muscles was normal.

Figure 4. (A, B) Haematoxylin-Eosin (HE) staining showed the resected mass contained mainly enlarged mature cardiomyocytes in haphazard arrangement. Some nucleuses of the cardiomyocytes were enlarged. Fibrotic tissue and mature adipose were infiltrated in the cardiac fibers.
HMCM are disorganized, usually haphazardly arranged. Compare with cardiac rhabdomyoma, which is compose of immature cardiomyocytes, HMCM contains mature myocytes with enlarged nucleus.\(^\text{[1,6]}\)

Except for the patients diagnosed by autopsy, all other patients received surgery. Surgeries include completely resection, partially resection, mainly depend on the size and location of the mass. One patient received heart transplantation, since the mass locates from the middle to the distal part of left ventricle lateral wall, and remove the mass would impact the heart function.\(^\text{[12]}\) Prognosis of HMCM is good. And surgery is an effective treatment. No perioperative mortality is reported. Patients receiving surgery are all alive and no recurrence are found during follow up (range 2 months to 14 years).

In our case, even though the patient had severe symptoms and received TTE and CMR before surgery; however, since doctors have no experience with HMCM, mass in the right atrium was not found at first. Surgical decision was made mainly to relieve symptoms related to pericardial effusion and confirm diagnosis. Diagnosis of HMCM was made during surgery. Consider the pericardial effusion was caused by the mass, we decided to resect the mass completely. The surgery is effective, during 9 months follow up, the patient showed no pericardial effusion and symptoms.

In conclusion, hamartoma of mature cardomyocytes is a rare benign cardiac tumor. There were 26 cases reported until now. Numbers and location of the mass varies in different cases. The conclusive diagnosis depends on pathological sections. For patients with symptoms, surgery is an effective treatment for HMCM.

**Author contributions**

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