Giant left ventricular pseudoaneurysm presenting with hemoptysis

Rajesh Vijayvergiya, Jay Pattam, Sandeep S Rana, Jiten D Singh, Goverdhan D Puri, Manphool Singhal

INTRODUCTION

Left ventricular (LV) pseudoaneurysm is a contained cardiac rupture, which is sealed by layers of organized thrombus and hematoma. It is encircled by a thin layer of adherent pericardium without any myocardial layer, which makes it susceptible to rupture. The clinical presentation of pseudoaneurysm is variable. We hereby report an unusual case of giant LV pseudoaneurysm, presenting with recurrent hemoptysis and congestive cardiac failure. The role of various imaging modalities and surgical treatment of pseudoaneurysm is discussed.

CASE REPORT

A 60-year-old chronic smoking male presented in August 2009 with symptoms of chronic stable angina class 2 of 1 year duration, which worsened to class 3 in the preceding month. He had suffered an inferior wall myocardial infarction (MI) 3.5 years previously. His general physical examination was unremarkable. His cardiac examination revealed a LV 3rd heart sound, and chest examination revealed basal crepitations in both lung fields. An electrocardiogram showed T inversion in the inferior limb leads. An echocardiogram showed LV hypokinesia and an ejection fraction of 0.30. There was no mitral regurgitation. Coronary angiography revealed diffuse 70% mid right coronary artery (RCA) stenosis (Figure 1A). The left coronary artery and its branches were normal. He had...
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successful percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) of the mid RCA with a 2.75 mm × 33 mm bare metal stent (Presillion stent, Cordis Corp., Miami, Florida) (Figure 1B). Subsequently, he remained well on medical treatment.

At 2 years’ follow-up in July 2011, he presented with recurrent hemoptysis of 1 wk duration. There was about 5-10 mL of blood in each bout of hemoptysis. A chest X-ray showed a cardio-thoracic ratio of 0.75; there was no radiological abnormality in either lung field. An echocardiogram showed a LV ejection fraction of 0.30 and no mitral regurgitation. There was a large LV pseudoaneurysm at the sub-mitral position, measuring 110 mm × 100 mm with a 44 mm neck. The pseudoaneurysm cavity was partially filled with a thrombus (Figure 2). A computed tomography (CT) scan of the chest showed a LV ejection fraction of 0.30 and no mitral regurgitation. There was a large LV pseudoaneurysm at the sub-mitral position, measuring 110 mm × 100 mm with a 44 mm neck. The pseudoaneurysm cavity was partially filled with a thrombus (Figure 2).

The patient underwent surgical repair of the pseudoaneurysm. The left lateral wall of the heart was mobilized under cardio-pulmonary bypass. It was densely adherent to the pericardium and adjacent lingular segment of the left lung. Under cardioplegic arrest, the pseudoaneurysm was opened leaving a small rim of sac wall towards the lung. The pseudoaneurysm sac was filled with a blood clot (Figure 4A) and had a circular gap of about 40 mm diameter through which it was connected to the LV cavity (Figure 4B). The defect was closed using a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) patch with interrupted 4-0 Prolene suture (Figure 4C). The false sac was tailored to make two flaps which firmly covered the PTFE patch. Biological glue was spread between the two layers before tying the last suture of the sac. The patient was weaned from cardiopulmonary bypass and had an uneventful postoperative recovery. A postoperative CT scan of the chest revealed normal LV outline without any leakage (Figure 3B). He was discharged on the 7th postoperative day. He remained asymptomatic at 9 mo’ follow-up with no recurrence of hemoptysis.

DISCUSSION
LV pseudoaneurysm is seen in patients having MI, cardiac infection, and following cardiac interventions or trauma.
MI is the most frequently observed etiology in LV pseudoaneurysm cases. It is a late mechanical complication of MI presenting within a few months of infarction. A very late presentation after years of MI as observed in the index case is very rare. There was no evident pseudoaneurysm on echocardiographic evaluation at the time of PCI of the RCA, which was performed 3.5 years after MI. During subsequent follow-up following PCI, his heart failure symptoms were attributed to low ejection fraction of 0.30, though the LV pseudoaneurysm would have also contributed to it. In general, patients do not have specific symptoms pertaining to pseudoaneurysm, hence the timely diagnosis may be difficult. In the index case also, the pseudoaneurysm could have been diagnosed earlier if periodic echocardiography screening was performed following PCI. A giant LV pseudoaneurysm has been reported to cause mitral regurgitation and compression of the adjacent vascular structures; however there were no such complications in the present case. Hemoptysis is a rare presentation of LV pseudoaneurysm. It occurs following ventriculo-pulmonary communication and, if not diagnosed in time, carries a poor prognosis. Due to our earlier experience of managing a case of intractable hemoptysis with LV pseudoaneurysm, we suspected pseudoaneurysm in this case also, and confirmed it by echocardiography and a subsequent CT scan. A high clinical suspicion and periodic echocardiographic screening should be performed for early diagnosis and appropriate management of such cases.

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