EDITORIALS

Of Mice and Men…and Dogs, Bats, Cats, Lions, Tigers, and Anteaters: Making Sense of Madness!

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It seems we are seeing the tip of the iceberg with regard to our connection to all creatures on earth. The coronavirus is our most recent example, a messenger ribonucleic acid virus that spread from bats to humans. Unfortunately, our genes are just different enough to result in devastating consequences. We are also beginning to see the wrath of this virus in other creatures, such as large cats (mountain lions and tigers), dogs, minks, and anteaters. Think of the similarities that must exist across the deoxyribonucleic acid of these species, ourselves included, to share susceptibility to a common virus.

The good news is that our imaging collaboration is helping now more than ever before. By sharing clinical experience from all fields of ultrasound, we are finding more ways to detect and treat disease. *Echinococcus* is a parasitic tapeworm endemic in dogs. Humans can become infected after ingestion of food or water contaminated by animal feces. In this issue of *CASE*, we share two reports of this rare disease from different parts of the world. The first comes from Dr. Hassan Mir and his team of sonographers, who demonstrate the classic echocardiographic features of echinococcosis. The second comes from a team led by Drs. Saeed Meimand and Anita Sadeghpour; their report includes astonishing images of advanced disease. You really must check out the video in their case!

Conversely, without the assistance of the animal kingdom, we would have little success in our battles against disease. Legions of laboratory animals are required for research. There are recent reports of our beloved best friend, the dog, being trained to sniff out COVID-19. Dogs smell while we look for these tiny invaders in all kinds of new ways. In this issue of *CASE*, we see interventricular septal ruptures and hematomas in both humans and canines. There are lots of imaging tips to share.

Animals allow us to test and perfect our latest transcatheter therapies. They give us xenographic valves. Add a little human creativity, and we see bilateral transcatheter pulmonary artery valve placement that recreates pulmonary valve competence. We thank Dr. Edgar Acuna-Morin and team from Miami for this contribution. Dr. Brian Kelley and team from North Carolina show us how to eliminate systolic anterior motion using the transcatheter edge-to-edge technique in a patient with Barlow disease. The edge-to-edge technique was also used by Dr. Vinayak Nagaraja and colleagues in Cleveland to expedite recovery from severe COVID-19. Another impressive transcatheter technique, vacuum-assisted aspiration of lead vegetations, is shared by Amad Chohan from Oklahoma. In this issue of *CASE*, our colleagues are truly using every tool in the box.

We also wish to point out a very important new finding from Dr. Loran Defruyt and team from Belgium. They show us how selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor–induced tricuspid disease can masquerade as carcinoid. This adds to the differential diagnosis of tricuspid pathology and is a must-read for all clinicians.

Finally, through the efforts of global collaboration and the belief that something is impossible only if we allow it to be, we are blessed with new vaccines to combat this devastating pandemic. For this we are eternally grateful to every creature who played a part.

Thank you for sharing your creativity and experience through *CASE*. We truly are all in this together.

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