Most patients with congenital heart disease are diagnosed shortly after birth; however, some patients are overlooked and diagnosed in adulthood. We present the case of a man in whom congenitally corrected transposition of the great arteries (CCTGA) was first diagnosed at the age of 88 years. CCTGA is a rare disease; patients without frequently associated cardiac anomalies are considered to have long life expectancies; however, their prognosis remains unclear. This case is the oldest patient at the time of CCTGA diagnosis in the literature, which may provide new insights for CCTGA without frequently associated cardiac anomalies.

Case
An 88-year-old man presented with dyspnea on exertion. His blood pressure was 176/64 mm Hg, pulse rate 53 beats per minute, and oxygen saturation value 90% on room air.

Physical examination revealed coarse crackles in bilateral lung fields and pitting edema in both legs. Electrocardiography showed bradycardia due to third-degree atrioventricular block, inversion of all complexes in lead I, marked right axis deviation, reverse R-wave progression in precordial leads, and Q-wave in leads I, aVL, and V6 (Fig. 1). Transthoracic echocardiography showed systemic ventricular dysfunction (ejection fraction of 27%) with mild systemic atrioventricular valvular regurgitation. He was known to have dextrocardia, which was diagnosed on the basis of chest radiography when he visited a clinic for ill health in his thirties. Additionally, he had a past history of appendicitis surgery, which led to the detection of heterotaxy. He had not been hospitalized previously for any cardiovascular disease.

After transvenous temporary pacing catheter placement and the administration of diuretics, his condition improved; however, his bradycardia persisted, and we decided transvenous permanent pacemaker implantation was required. We performed chest computed tomography to make an operative plan. The 3 major findings were as follows: First, the aorta arose from the anatomic right ventricle with the moderator band and the subaortic infundibulum; second, the anatomic right ventricle was connected to the left atrium; and third, the band and the subaortic infundibulum; second, the anatomic right ventricle was connected to the left atrium; and third, the aortic valve was at the cephalic end of the interventricular septum.
right atrium, which was connected to the superior and inferior vena cava, was located on the left side with the presence of situs inversus (Fig. 2, A-F). These findings indicated atrioventricular and ventriculoarterial discordance with atrial situs inversus. Other than a small atrial septal defect, we did not find any other cardiac anomalies, including ventricular septum defects and pulmonary stenosis. He was therefore diagnosed with CCTGA. He underwent transvenous permanent pacemaker implantation (Fig. 2G) and has remained free of symptoms since the operation.

Discussion

CCTGA is a rare disease that accounts for less than 1% of congenital heart diseases. CCTGA without other frequently associated cardiac anomalies sometimes remains undiagnosed for decades because symptoms are often minimal and nonspecific, and many asymptomatic patients are first given a diagnosis of CCTGA in adulthood.\(^1\) CCTGA patients often present with anatomic tricuspid regurgitation and advanced atrioventricular block at a younger age, which lead to the development of chronic heart failure and morphologic right ventricular dysfunction with increasing age. Graham et al. reported that by age 45 years, chronic heart failure was present in 67% of CCTGA patients with frequently associated cardiac anomalies, but in only 25% of those without.\(^2\) Although the prognosis of CCTGA without other frequently associated cardiac anomalies remains unclear, some case reports suggest that the potential life expectancy is as long as that of healthy individuals.\(^3\) In our case, the patient remained asymptomatic until age 88 years, and he seems to be the oldest patient at the time of CCTGA diagnosis in the literature. CCTGA patients with situs inversus are considered to have a better prognosis than those with situs solitus,\(^6\) and this might be another reason why his manifestations of CCTGA occurred very late in life.

Conclusions

This case report describes the case of a man with CCTGA that went undiagnosed until he was 88 years of age. This case may provide new insights for the natural history of CCTGA without frequently associated cardiac anomalies.

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Disclosures

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Novel Teaching Points

- This case suggests that the prognosis for CCTGA patients without frequently associated cardiac anomalies is potentially as good as that for healthy individuals.
- There is a possibility of undiagnosed congenital heart disease even in elderly patients without a history of adult congenital heart disease.

Osakada et al. CCTGA at Age 88 Years
Figure 1. An electrocardiogram showed bradycardia of 48 beats per minute due to third-degree atrioventricular block, inversion of all complexes in lead I, marked right axis deviation with 152 degree, reverse R-wave progression in precordial leads, and Q-wave in leads I, aVL, and V6.

Figure 2. (A-F) Chest computed tomography images. The aorta arose from the anatomic right ventricle with the moderator band and the subaortic infundibulum (arrows). The anatomic right ventricle was connected to the left atrium. The right atrium, which was connected to the superior and inferior vena cava, was located on the left side with the presence of situs inversus. (G) A chest radiograph image after transvenous permanent pacemaker implantation. Ao, aorta; IVC, inferior vena cava; LA, left atrium; LV, anatomic left ventricle; PA, pulmonary artery; PV, pulmonary vein; RA, right atrium; RV, anatomic right ventricle; SVC, superior vena cava.