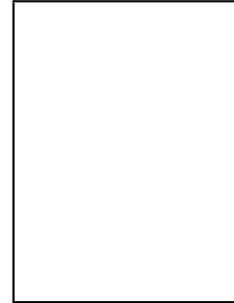


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Tuberculous submitral aneurysm: A rare cardiac presentation of a common pathogen

Aneurisma submitral tuberculoso: uma apresentação cardíaca rara de um patógeno comum

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Submitral aneurysm of the left ventricle (LV) is a rarely reported cardiac entity that can have a varied etiology. Primarily postulated to be caused by a congenital defect in the mitral annulus, secondary causes such as ischemic, rheumatic heart disease, infective and connective tissue disorders have also been described. We report a rare case of submitral aneurysm caused by tuberculous infestation of the mitral valve.

A 28-year-old man had a history of painless cervical lymphadenopathy and loss of appetite for six months. Fine needle-aspiration cytology of the cervical lymph node showed low yield mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB) detected by Gene-Xpert. Anti-tuberculous therapy (ATT) was started by the treating physician, but the patient discontinued after one week. Subsequently, he reported orthopnea, exertional dyspnea and palpitation over the previous three months. He developed shortness of breath at rest, one day prior to admission.

On examination, he had reduced air entry on the right side with bilateral basal crepitations. Cardiac evaluation showed LVS3, 3/6 pan-systolic murmur at the mitral area. Diagnostic pleural fluid work-up revealed straw-colored fluid, 90 cells/high-power-field (95% lymphocytes, 5% polymorphs). The cartridge based nucleic acid amplification test of pleural fluid for MTB and blood culture were negative.

Echocardiographic evaluation (Figure 1) demonstrated posterior mitral leaflet (PML) prolapse with thick-walled aneurysm in the sub-mitral area; cavity size 5.1 x 4.0 cm with to & fro flow into the cavity, with severe mitral regurgitation (MR), no vegetation and thin rim of pericardial effusion. Cardiac contrast-enhanced CT-scan (Figure 2) also showed aneurysmal dilatation at the base of the LV along the mitral annulus with prolapse of PML into the left atrium (LA). Both LA and LV were dilated.

The patient was started on heart failure management. He was re-initiated on ATT and underwent early mitral annular reconstruction with a tanned pericardial patch and MV replacement with #25/33 mm

On-X mechanical prosthetic valve (Figure 3A-C). Valve tissue on histopathological examination displayed necrotizing epithelioid cell granulomatous valvulitis(Figure 3D) along with the growth of acid fast bacilli in culture, suggestive of tuberculous etiology. The patient had an uneventful postoperative recovery and is currently on ATT and oral anticoagulation and doing well.

Submitral aneurysm or postero-basal aneurysm is an unusual cardiac condition first described by Abrahams et al. in African patients[1]. Congenital weakening in the posterior section of the mitral fibrous annulus or a disjunction between the LV and LA muscles are two potential etiologies[2]. Infective diseases such as tuberculosis can very rarely lead to the development of submitral aneurysms, as in our case. Similar cases of tuberculous submitral aneurysm, in which patients developed heart failure and succumbed following surgery have been reported rarely[3,4]. Presentation may be variable, small aneurysms are asymptomatic[2], larger ones present with dyspnea caused by MR secondary to imperfect coaptation of the leaflets, as in our patient. They can also present with life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias, thromboembolic phenomena, compression of a coronary artery, heart failure, rupture leading to death[4]. Echocardiography and CECT are essential modalities for diagnosis[5]. Early surgery is indicated in severe cases. Histopathological examination after surgery clinched the etiology as tuberculous in our patient. Proper compliance with antituberculous medication must be ensured in these cases.

Ethics in publishing

1. Does your research involve experimentation on animals?:

No

2. Does your study include human subjects?:

Yes

If yes; please provide name of the ethical committee approving these experiments and the registration number. :

Case report alone. IEC not needed as per hospital and publication guidelines.

If yes; please confirm authors compliance with all relevant ethical regulations. :

Yes

If yes; please confirm that written consent has been obtained from all patients. :

Yes

3. Does your study include a clinical trial?:

No

Not Applicable

4. Are all data shown in the figures and tables also shown in the text of the Results section and discussed in the Conclusions?:

Yes

Funding: None.

Consent statement: Consent was obtained from the patient for the purpose of anonymized publication.

Declaration of competing interest: The Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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Figures :

Fig 1: 2D Echo in Parasternal Long Axis view (A) & (C) (with colour Doppler) & AP4-Chamber view (B) & (D) (with colour Doppler) showing aneurysm in the sub-mitral area (red arrow) with to & fro flow into the cavity, with severe mitral regurgitation.

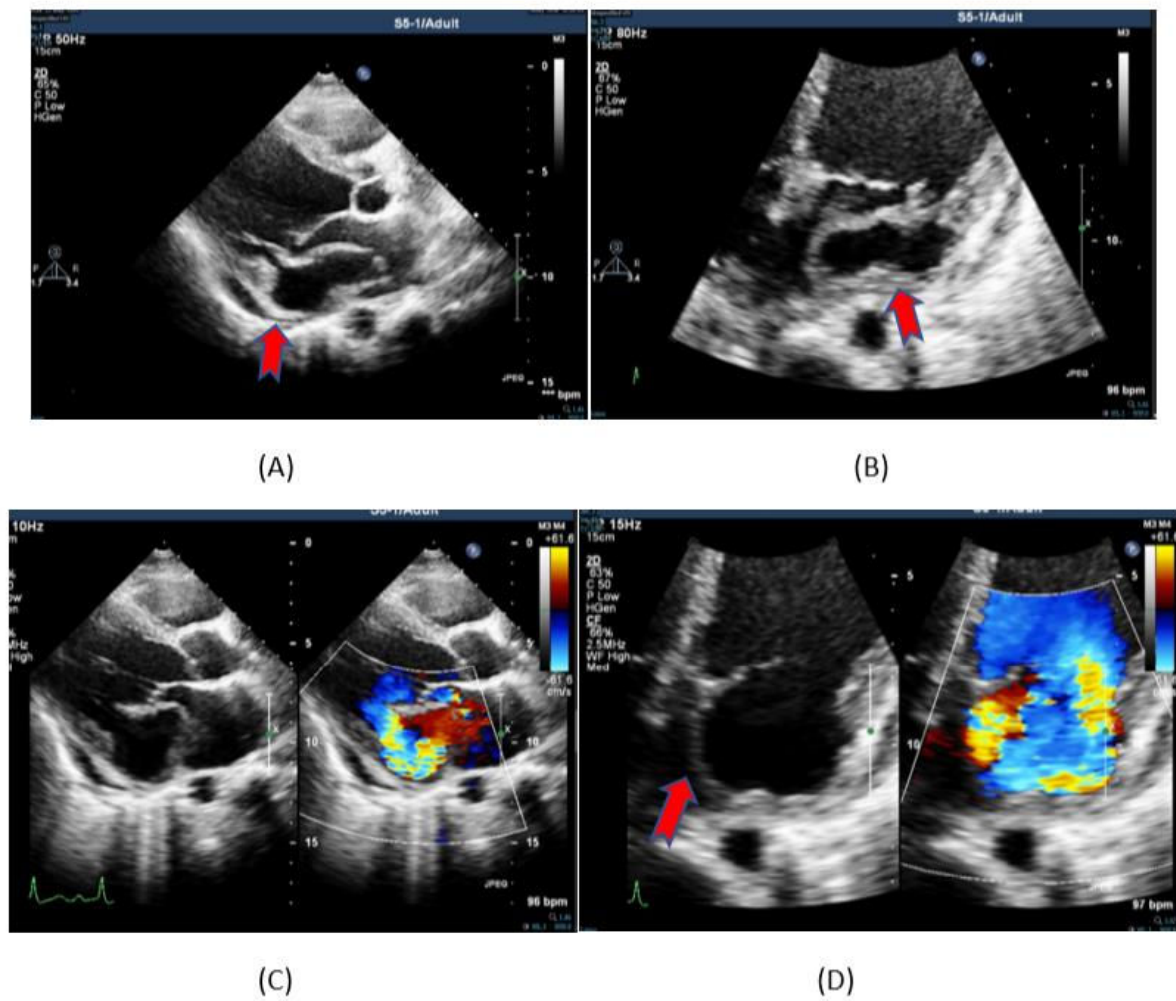


Fig 2: Cardiac CT showing aneurysmal dilatation (red arrow) of the base of left ventricle along the mitral annulus with prolapse of posterior mitral leaflet into left atrium.

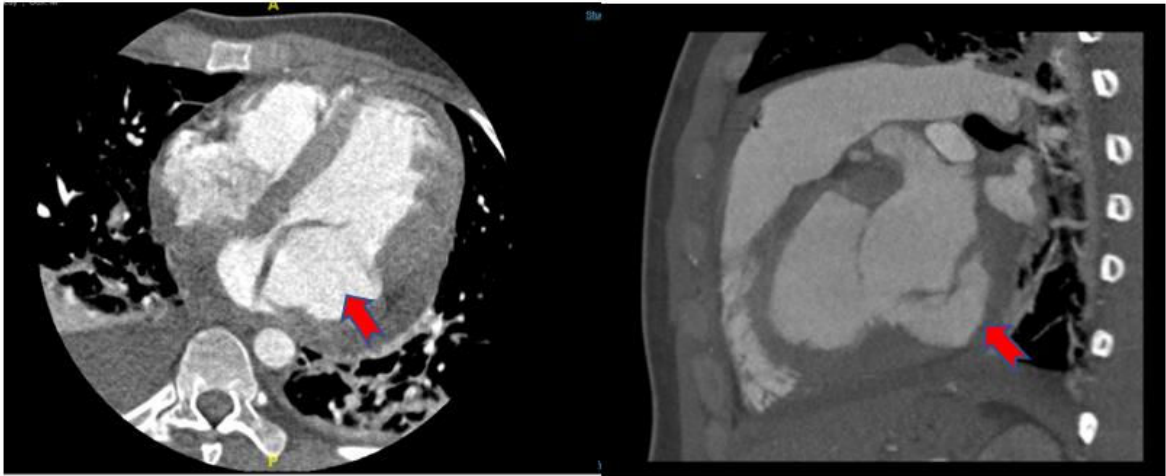


Fig 3: Intraoperative image showing the excised sub-mitral aneurysm specimen (A), mitral annular reconstruction (B) & On-X mechanical prosthetic valve (red arrow) implantation (C), histopathological examination of aneurysm specimen showing necrotizing epithelioid cell granulomas with giant cells(D)

