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Inês Araújo João Cravo Ana Rita Maurício Joana Rigueira Catarina Sousa

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Infective endocarditis of the mitral valve with involvement of the left

atrium: A rare finding

Endocardite infecciosa da valva mitral com envolvimento do átrio esquerdo

Um achado raro

Inês Araújo^{1,*}, João Cravo¹, Ana Rita Maurício², Joana Rigueira¹, Catarina Sousa¹

¹Department of Cardiology, Unidade Local de Saúde Santa Maria, CAML, CCUL@RISE

Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

²Serviço de Cardiologia, Departamento de Coração e Vasos, Unidade Local de Saúde de Santa

Maria (ULSSM), Lisboa, Portugal

*Corresponding author.

E-mail address: inesaraujo96@gmail.com (I. Araújo)

A 73-year-old male patient was admitted with a six-month history of fever, unquantified weight loss and night sweats and a six-week history of a purpuric rash on both lower limbs. Cardiac auscultation revealed a de novo holosystolic murmur in the mitral area irradiating to the axilla. Two sets of blood cultures were positive for multisensitive Streptococcus gordonii. A transesophageal echocardiogram revealed two highly mobile isoechogenic filamentous structures adherent to the P1 and A1 leaflets of the mitral valve (98x3mm). Flail, chordae rupture, and perforation of the posterior leaflet were observed, causing severe regurgitation with an eccentric jet directed at the anterior wall of the left atrium (LA) (Figure 1A). Furthermore, in the anterolateral wall of the LA there were numerous sessile structures compatible with vegetations, the largest one measuring 9x2mm (Figure 1B). This exam was consistent with native mitral valve infective endocarditis (IE) with LA wall involvement, complicated by severe mitral regurgitation.

This case highlights the complexity of IE and the importance of excluding mural vegetations and LA involvement in patients with mitral vegetations. Although heart valves are the most commonly affected structures, involvement of other intracardiac sites should be considered. Atrial endocarditis is a rare complication of mitral endocarditis, explained by "direct spreading" or "jet effect" with retrograde flow capable of extending the infectious process proximally.

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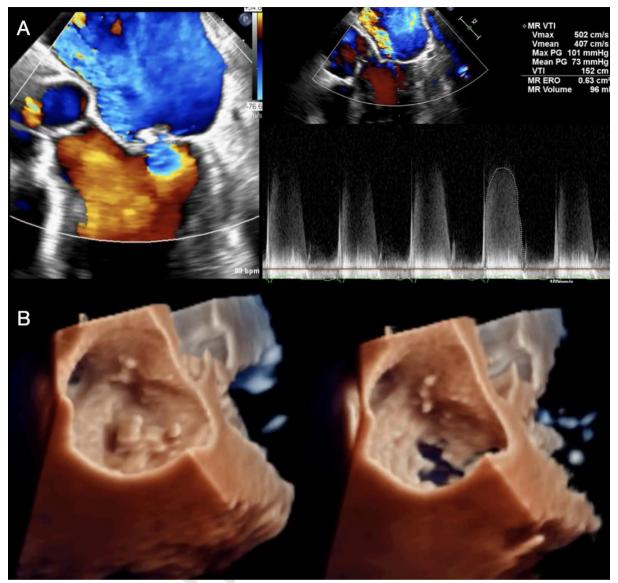


Figure 1.

- (A) Echocardiogram showing severe mitral valve regurgitation.(B) Three-dimensional echocardiogram showing vegetations in the left atrium.