

IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY

Mycotic aortic aneurysm secondary to repeated endocarditis[☆]

Aneurisma micótico aórtico secundário a endocardites de repetição

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A 63-year-old man was admitted for fever. He had a history of *Streptococcus viridans* aortic valve endocarditis at age 41, when he was also diagnosed with ventricular septal defect (VSD), subaortic stenosis and aortic regurgitation (AR). Following a course of antibiotics, he underwent surgical repair of the VSD, resection of the subaortic membrane and implantation of a mechanical aortic valve. A year after this intervention the prosthesis was replaced due to refractory *Staphylococcus epidermidis* endocarditis. Fourteen years later the aortic valve was again replaced due to a periprosthetic abscess from which *Staphylococcus aureus* was isolated. The patient had two further episodes of *S. viridans* endocarditis, 5 and 7 years later, which resolved with antibiotic therapy.

In the present hospitalization he was diagnosed with *S. epidermidis* prosthetic endocarditis. The echocardiogram

showed severe mitral regurgitation and AR secondary to periprosthetic leakage, as well as a large cavity posterior to the aortic arch communicating with the prosthetic dehiscence and with the aorta (Figure 1A). Multislice computed tomography (CT) identified the structure as a saccular aneurysm and its neck (Figure 1B and C). Aortography (Figure 1D) confirmed the findings of a large aneurysm and severe AR. After 8 weeks of antibiotic therapy the patient underwent further surgery, a mechanical mitral-aortic valve being implanted and the aneurysm being excluded with a Dacron patch.

Prosthetic infection and periannular extension are serious complications of endocarditis. In this patient, repeated bacterial infections led to dehiscence of the prosthesis, severe AR and the formation of a large mycotic aneurysm. CT angiography and aortography established the anatomical

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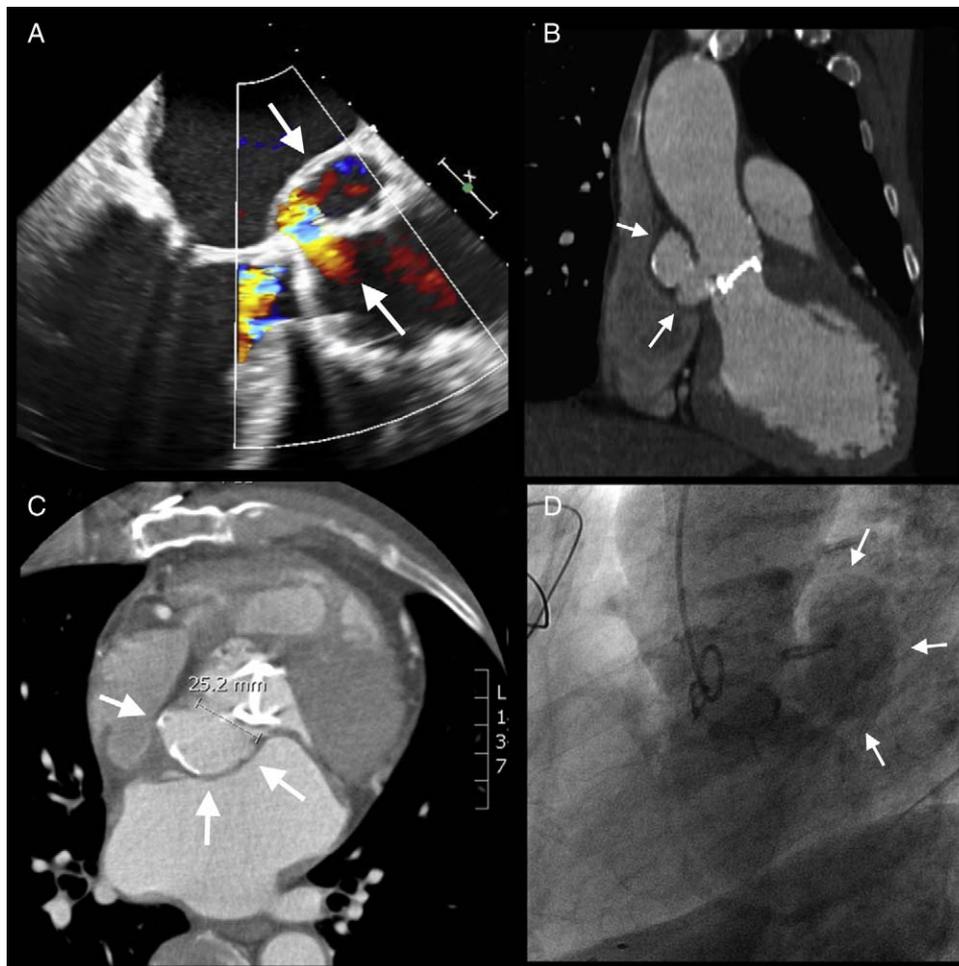


Figure 1 (A) Transesophageal echocardiography showing dehiscence of the prosthesis and blood flow between the aortic root and the cavity. (B and C) Multislice CT identifying the neck of the aneurysm. (D) Aortography showing severe AR and a large aneurysm posterior to the aortic root.

diagnosis and the size and extent of the aneurysm, enabling appropriate surgery to be scheduled.

Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.