

Case Report

Left ventricular mass - a facade for left ventricular calcification

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ABSTRACT

Calcification overlying the left side of the heart on a chest radiograph may involve either the pericardium or, alternatively, the myocardium in association with a left ventricular aneurysm. Pericardial calcification was found primarily over the right-sided cardiac chambers and in the atrioventricular grooves, infrequently over the base of the left ventricle, and rarely over the apex of the left ventricle. When the left ventricle was involved, there was always more extensive calcification elsewhere in the pericardium. Myocardial calcification occurred predominantly in the apex of the left ventricle, although it was rarely confined to the posterior wall of the left ventricle. Isolated calcification in the region of the left ventricular apex, therefore, strongly suggests left ventricular aneurysm. Isolated idiopathic left ventricular calcification without any detectable abnormality is a rare phenomenon and found to be worth reporting.

Keywords: HTLV 1, Left ventricular calcification

INTRODUCTION

Calcification overlying the left side of the heart on a chest radiograph may involve either the pericardium or, alternatively, the myocardium in association with a left ventricular aneurysm.

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CASE REPORT

We present a 45 year old patient with old anterior wall myocardial infarction who presented with calcification of the apex with no aneurysm on echocardiography (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Two dimensional echocardiography showing the left ventricular calcification.

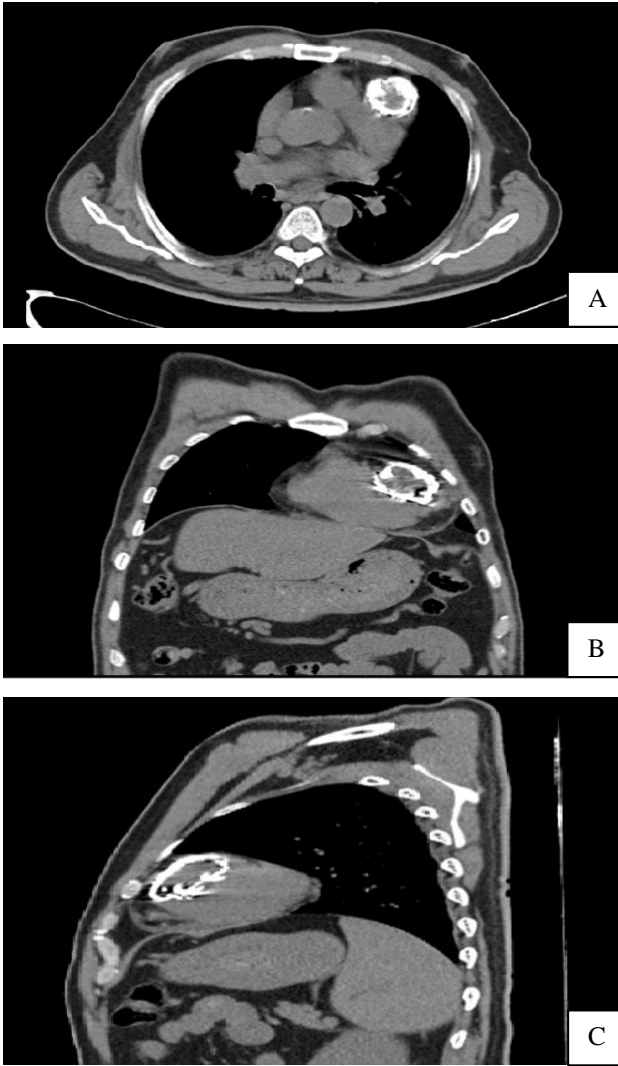


Figure 2 (A-C): MRI cardiac imaging revealing calcification of the left ventricle.

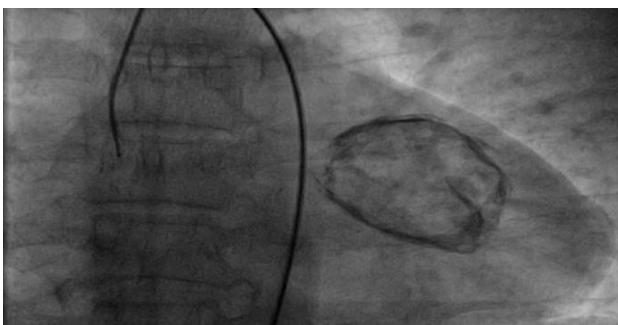


Figure 3: Cardiac catheterization showing the extensive calcification of the left ventricle.

The patient underwent MRI cardiac imaging which revealed calcification of the left ventricle (Figure 2A-C) which was confirmed on cardiac catheterization (Figure 3). No calcium or parathyroid abnormalities could be detected in the patient after lab investigations.

DISCUSSION

Metastatic calcification of various organs including myocardium has been reported with HTLV-1 infection, but in our case, HTLV-1 was negative.^{1,2} Myocardial calcification has been reported after orthotopic heart transplantations or unselected bone marrow transplantation to acute myocardial infarction in an animal model.^{3,4} The ventricular calcification have been reported as a complication of lymphoma treatment such as the adverse effect of irradiation, or drug toxicity.⁵ Isolated idiopathic left ventricular calcification without any detectable abnormality was found to be worth reporting

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