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A Case of Pericardial Metastasis: Image Case Report

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Abstract

A 76-year-old male with a past history of resected cancer colon and a recurrence in the form of hepatic and lung metastases had a Chest X Ray (CXR) which revealed cardiomegaly and referred for echocardiography that revealed a large pericardial mass with pericardial effusion most likely metastatic in nature.

Keywords: Pericardium; Metastasis; Cancer colon

Introduction

Although primary cardiac tumors are extremely rare, secondary tumors are not. Theoretically the heart can be metastasized by any malignant neoplasm able to spread to distant sites.

Case Presentation

A 76-year-old male patient with past medical history of diabetes, hypertension, ischemic heart disease and chronic renal failure on maintenance hemodialysis and a history of resected adenocarcinoma of the colon 2 years ago with recurrence diagnosed 6 months ago in the form of hepatic and pulmonary metastases had a CXR which revealed cardiomegaly and bilateral pulmonary infiltrates. He was referred for echocardiography which showed a large fleshy pericardial mass attached to the anterior surface of the right atrium and ventricle with anterior pericardial effusion most likely metastatic in nature. Due to his critical condition, no further investigations were done and only supportive and palliative measures were adopted (**Figures 1 and 2**).

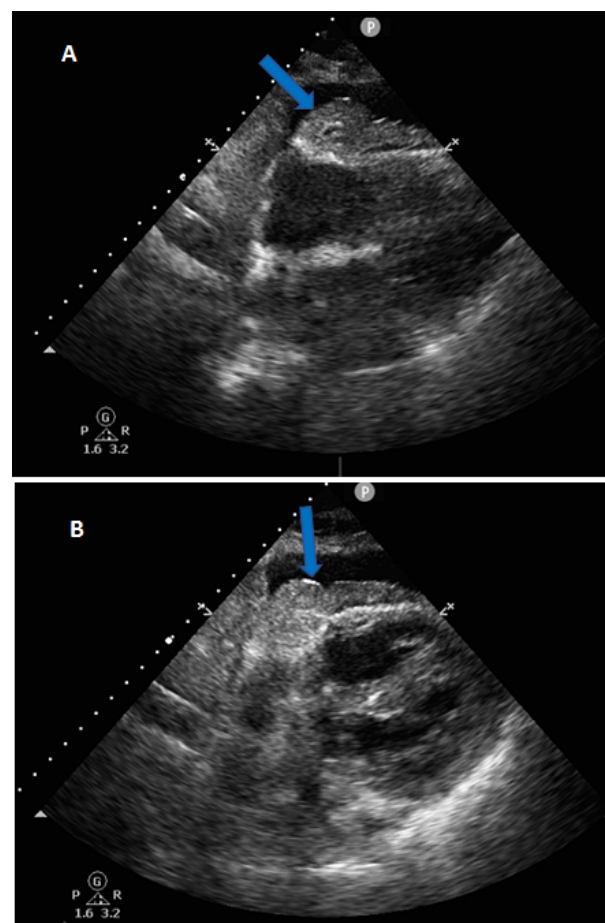


Figure 1 Subcostal view showing a large anteriorly located pericardial mass with anterior pericardial effusion (A and B).

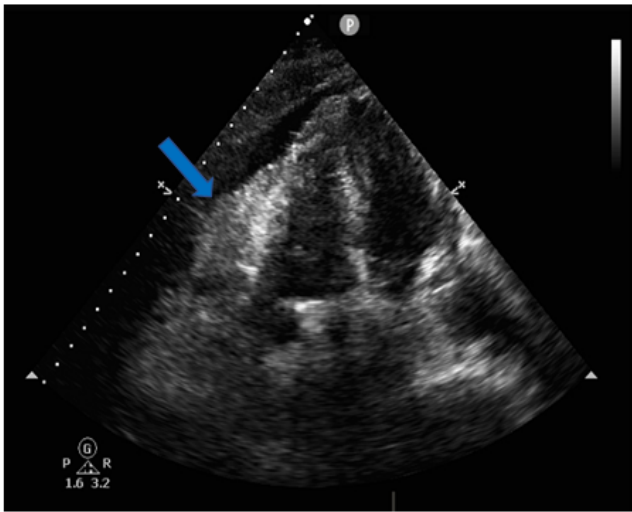


Figure 2 Apical 4 chamber view showing a large pericardial mass related to the right atrium and ventricle with mild pericardial effusion.

common than primary cardiac tumors and are generally associated with a poor prognosis [2]. Echocardiography remains the key method for diagnosis of cardiac masses [3]. Advances in other imaging modalities such as Cardiac Magnetic Resonance (CMR) and Cardiac Computed Tomography (CT) are associated with improved tissue characterization with better spatial and temporal resolutions [4].

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Discussion and Conclusion

Primary pericardial malignancies are extremely rare [1]. Metastases to the heart and pericardium are much more