



BIOPROSTHETIC AORTIC VALVE ENDOCARDITIS WITH PERIANNULAR ABSCESS IN A 22-YEAR-OLD FEMALE

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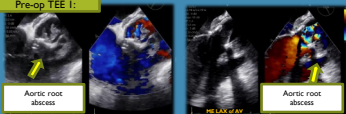
INTRODUCTION

Aortic root abscess is a complication of infective endocarditis with high morbidity and mortality.

PROCEDURAL FINDINGS AND CLINICAL COURSE

This case is about a 22-year-old female, known VSD and bicuspid aortic valve, who initially developed native aortic valve endocarditis caused by *Streptococcus sanguinis* and subsequently underwent bioprosthetic aortic valve replacement, mitral and tricuspid valve repair, and VSD closure. Few months after her surgery, she became pregnant and shortly after delivery, she presented with prolonged fever and chills. TTE showed prosthetic valve stenosis with suspicious vegetation attached to the prosthetic aortic valve. Empiric antibiotics were started. Blood culture revealed oxacillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*. TEE was done showing bioprosthetic aortic valve stenosis and aortic root abscess. Contrast CT showed aortic root pseudoaneurysm with surrounding soft tissue density likely abscess. Antibiotic treatment was continued for 6 weeks. Patient eventually underwent redo sternotomy, radical debridement of abscess and aortic valve replacement with patch augmentation of the aorta. Intraoperatively, abscess was noted along the aortic annulus. Patient was eventually discharged stable and improved.

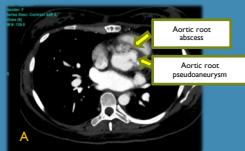
Pre-op TEE 1:



Pre-op TEE 2:



Post-op TEE:



Cardiac CT with contrast (A)
Axial view (B) Sagittal view

LEARNING POINTS

Prosthetic valve endocarditis may involve the paravalvular space with or without involvement of the prosthetic valve leaflets. It can affect any part of the prosthesis. TEE could help in better visualization of vegetations and paravalvular extension since the density of the prosthetic material often causes artifact from acoustic shadowing.

CONCLUSION

Prosthetic valve endocarditis has a high morbidity and mortality rate requiring prompt diagnosis and treatment. Transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiogram are complementary and instrumental in the diagnosis and planning of treatment.