A 31-year-old woman presented with lightheadedness, dizziness, and intermittent palpitations. On physical examination, she was tachycardic with an irregular rhythm. An ECG confirmed atrial fibrillation/flutter. The chest x-ray (Figure A) was notable for an abnormal upper left heart border. A transthoracic echocardiogram revealed a left atrial appendage aneurysm (Figure B and C). The giant left atrial appendage aneurysm was further delineated by a transesophageal echocardiogram (Figure D), which demonstrated sluggish systolic and diastolic flow throughout the cavity. The aneurysm measured 7.2 × 3.9 cm on cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (Figure E). Before surgery, computed tomography 3-dimensional reconstruction (Figure F) was obtained and illustrated the spatial relationship of the aneurysm to the left atrium and left ventricle. The classic appearance of left ventricular anterolateral wall compression by the aneurysm was well demonstrated. The patient underwent median sternotomy with left atrial appendage aneurysm resection and left-sided Maze procedure. She was discharged home with resolution of symptoms, in sinus rhythm, and on a short course of anticoagulation.

Disclosures

None.
Figure. A, Chest x-ray showing an abnormal upper left heart border (arrow). B and C, Apical 4-chamber and 2-chamber transthoracic echocardiogram demonstrating a giant left atrial appendage aneurysm (asterisk). D, Transesophageal echocardiogram further delineating the giant left atrial appendage aneurysm. The aneurysm measured 7.2 × 3.9 cm on cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (E; asterisk). F, Computed tomography 3-dimensional reconstruction illustrating the spatial relationship of the aneurysm (red) to the left atrium and left ventricle (LV; yellow), as well as left ventricular anterolateral wall compression by the aneurysm.
Giant Left Atrial Appendage Aneurysm
Anthony Smeglin, Juan Merchan, Michael Maysky, Michael Johnstone and John O. Pastore

Circulation. 2008;118:2393-2394
doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.108.776146
Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2008 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/118/23/2393

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Circulation can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Circulation is online at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org//subscriptions/