An 80-year-old man with a 1-day history of chest pain was referred to our cardiology clinic. The patient’s right arm blood pressure, pulse, and temperature were found to be 81/53 mmHg, 71 beats/min, and 37.4°C, respectively. Electrocardiography was unremarkable. Chest radiography revealed a widened mediastinum and a small amount of pleural effusion at the left costophrenic angle (Figure A and B). A linear calcium plaque was noted at the aortic knob, located 5 mm from the outer wall (Figure C, arrows). Results of blood examination indicated a d-dimer level of 5.6 μg/mL. The patient was diagnosed with aortic dissection; however, he refused hospitalization despite being provided with the knowledge of the life-threatening nature of his condition. He presented again at our clinic 5 days later with hoarseness. Chest radiography revealed further widening between the calcium plaque and the outer wall of the aorta (Figure D, arrows). Despite intensive persuasion, he refused emergency surgery and died 2 days later.

Disclosures

None.
Shifting Calcium Plaque in Progressive Aortic Dissection
Takashi Koyama, Kazunori Moritani, Masaru Shibata and Hideo Mitamura

Circulation. 2013;128:e239
doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.113.003241
Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2013 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/128/16/e239

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/