Response to Letter Regarding Article, “Periaortitis as a Rare Complication After Endovascular Aneurysm Repair”

We thank Kakkos et al for their interest in our case report entitled “Periaortitis as a Rare Complication After Endovascular Aneurysm Repair.”

Information concerning secondary periaortitis after stent graft implantation in humans is indeed rare, and only 6 cases have been published so far, although a huge number of endovascular aneurysm repair procedures are performed worldwide. Interestingly, there are similarities in all reported cases. Time of identification ranged from 3 to 17 months after endovascular aneurysm repair. All patients were symptomatic; 5 patients experienced back, flank, or abdominal pain and 1 patient had anuria. Five of 6 patients showed an additional inflammatory involvement of the ureter with stenosis and consecutive hydronephrosis and worsening of renal function. In 1 case, a nephrectomy was performed because of poor renal function, and, in 2 cases, ureteral splinting was indicated. Our patient also experienced back pain, and, as described in most of the cases, an involvement of the ureter was detected, and a worsening of renal function, as well. The question arises regarding if the 2 patients from the Kakkos series had similar symptoms.

When the mode of treatment of secondary periaortitis in previously published cases is analyzed, there is no consensus regarding medical therapy. Related to the treatment of primary periaortitis, either corticoids or tamoxifen or a combination of both was used. Under immunosuppressive therapy, in all cases, a significant reduction of periaortic inflammation could be achieved, and renal function and hydronephrosis improved in 5 of 6 patients.

We totally agree that clinicians should be aware of inflammatory abdominal aortic aneurysm transformation after endovascular aneurysm repair to finally answer the question whether secondary periaortitis after endovascular aneurysm repair represents an underdiagnosed or underreported entity. An immunosuppressive therapy seems to be effective.

Disclosures

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References

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