A Heavily Calcified Left Atrial Myxoma

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A mildly demented 83-year-old woman presented with palpitation and ischemic cardiac pain. Penetrated posteroanterior (Figure, A) and lateral radiographs (Figure, B) revealed a calcified mass within the cardiac silhouette, which was later confirmed by echocardiography to be a calcified left atrial myxoma attached along the limbus of the fossa ovalis. This tumor is noteworthy for the extent of calcification that was evident on routine radiographic examination. This may be present to a lesser extent in up to 15% of myxomata examined by fluoroscopy. A similar proportion exhibits calcification on histological section with occasional foci of metaplastic bone. The advanced age of the patient at presentation is also uncommon, although 12% of left atrial myxomata in the AFIP series presented after the age of 70 years. A conservative approach was agreed upon, and the patient died of a stroke 2 years later after having survived general anesthesia for right hip arthroplasty.

Penetrated posteroanterior (A) and lateral (B) radiographs showing the heavily calcified 5×5×4-cm intracardiac mass.

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Images in cardiovascular medicine. A heavily calcified left atrial myxoma.

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