

CASE REPORT

Urgent percutaneous transluminal septal myocardial ablation for left ventricular outflow tract obstruction exacerbated after surgical aortic valve replacement

Yoshitaka Sasahira¹ | Ryotaro Yamada¹  | Naofumi Doi² | Shiro Uemura¹

¹Division of Cardiology, Kawasaki Medical School, Kurashiki, Japan

²Department of Cardiology, Nara Prefecture Seiwa Medical Center, Nara, Japan

Correspondence

Ryotaro Yamada, Division of Cardiology, Kawasaki Medical School, Kurashiki, Japan.
Email: ryotaro@med.kawasaki-m.ac.jp

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Abstract

Percutaneous transluminal septal myocardial ablation (PTSMA) is an established procedure for treating symptomatic hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy. We report a case of urgent PTSMA for treating refractory heart failure due to exacerbated obstruction of the left ventricular outflow tract after surgical aortic valvular replacement to treat severe aortic stenosis.

KEYWORDS

aortic valvular replacement, case report, left Ventricular tract obstruction, percutaneous transluminal septal myocardial ablation

1 | INTRODUCTION

Left ventricular outflow tract (LVOT) obstruction is a recognized complication associated with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy that causes symptoms such as dyspnea on exertion and syncope. Medical treatment is often unable to relieve the symptoms of hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (HOCM), and surgical treatment with septal myectomy has become the gold standard for such patients.¹ Percutaneous transluminal septal myocardial ablation (PTSMA) has emerged as an alternative and has become an established treatment for symptomatic patients with HOCM.

Herein, we describe urgent PTSMA for exacerbated LVOT obstruction after surgical aortic valvular replacement (AVR) in an elderly woman.

1.1 | Case history/Examination

An 85-year-old woman was referred to us with refractory heart failure after surgical AVR with a 21-mm CROWN PRT (Sorin Group USA Inc., Arvada, CO, USA) and partial septal myectomy for severe aortic stenosis. The preoperative echocardiographic finding shows left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) with severe aortic valve stenosis (Figure 1a,1d), but no significant LVOT obstruction (Figure 1b), systolic anterior motion (SAM), and mitral regurgitation (MR) (Figure 1c,1d). Transthoracic echocardiography revealed exacerbated obstruction of the LVOT with a gradient of 200 mmHg and severe MR with SAM after surgical AVR (Figure 2a,2b). Invasive studies using a PressureWire™ X Guidewire (Abbott Vascular, Abbott Park, IL, USA) revealed real-time pressure gradients

Pre operative echocardiographic findings

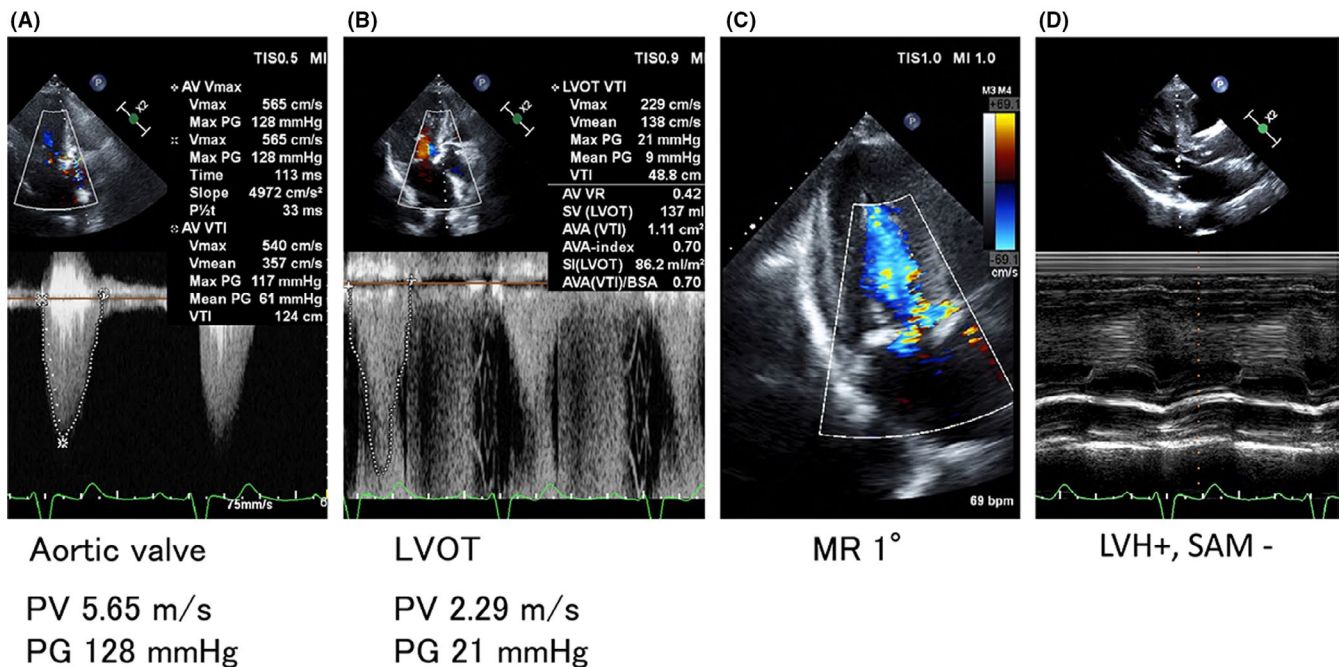


FIGURE 1 Pre-operative echocardiographic findings. The preoperative echocardiographic finding shows left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) with severe aortic valve stenosis (A and D), but no significant left ventricular outflow tract (LVOT) obstruction (C), systolic anterior motion (SAM), and mitral regurgitation (MR) (C and D)

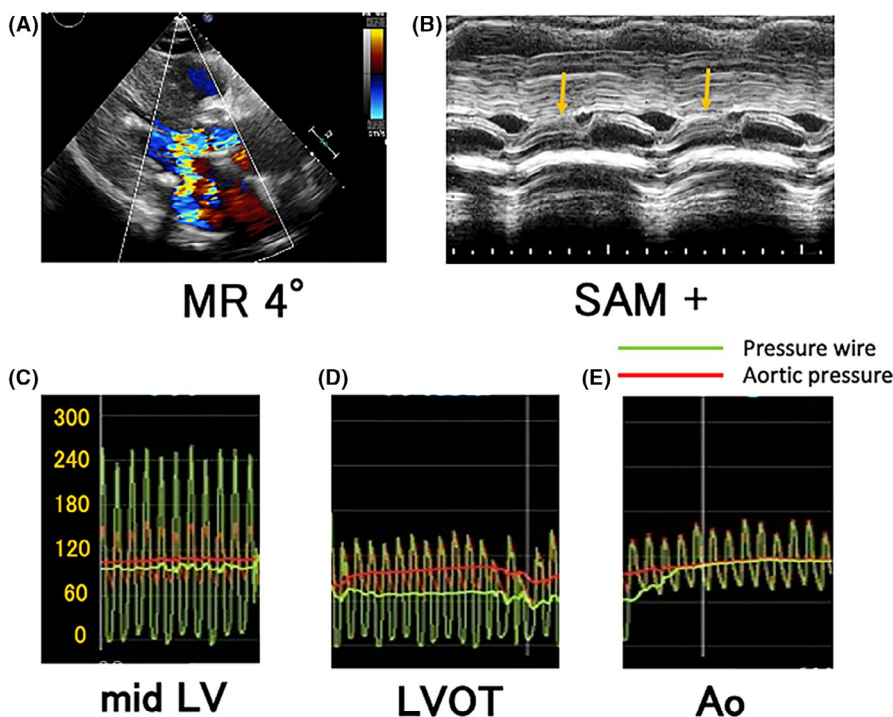


FIGURE 2 Baseline transthoracic echocardiography and pressure wire findings. Transthoracic echocardiography revealed exacerbated left ventricular outflow tract (LVOT) obstruction and severe mitral regurgitation (MR) with systolic anterior motion (SAM) after surgical AVR (A and B). Invasive pressure wire shows real-time pressure gradients between left ventricular (green line) and aortic (red line) pressure (C). Pressure gradient LVOT was 100 mmHg. These gradients did not differ during pressure wire retraction (D and E)

between left ventricular pressure and aortic pressure (Figure 2c). The LVOT pressure gradient was 100 mmHg. No pressure differences were observed between left ventricular and aorta while retracting the pressure wire (Figure 2d,2e).

1.2 | Differential diagnosis, interventions, and treatment

Treatment with the β -blocker, cibenzoline, and temporal right ventricular pacing did not relieve the heart failure or

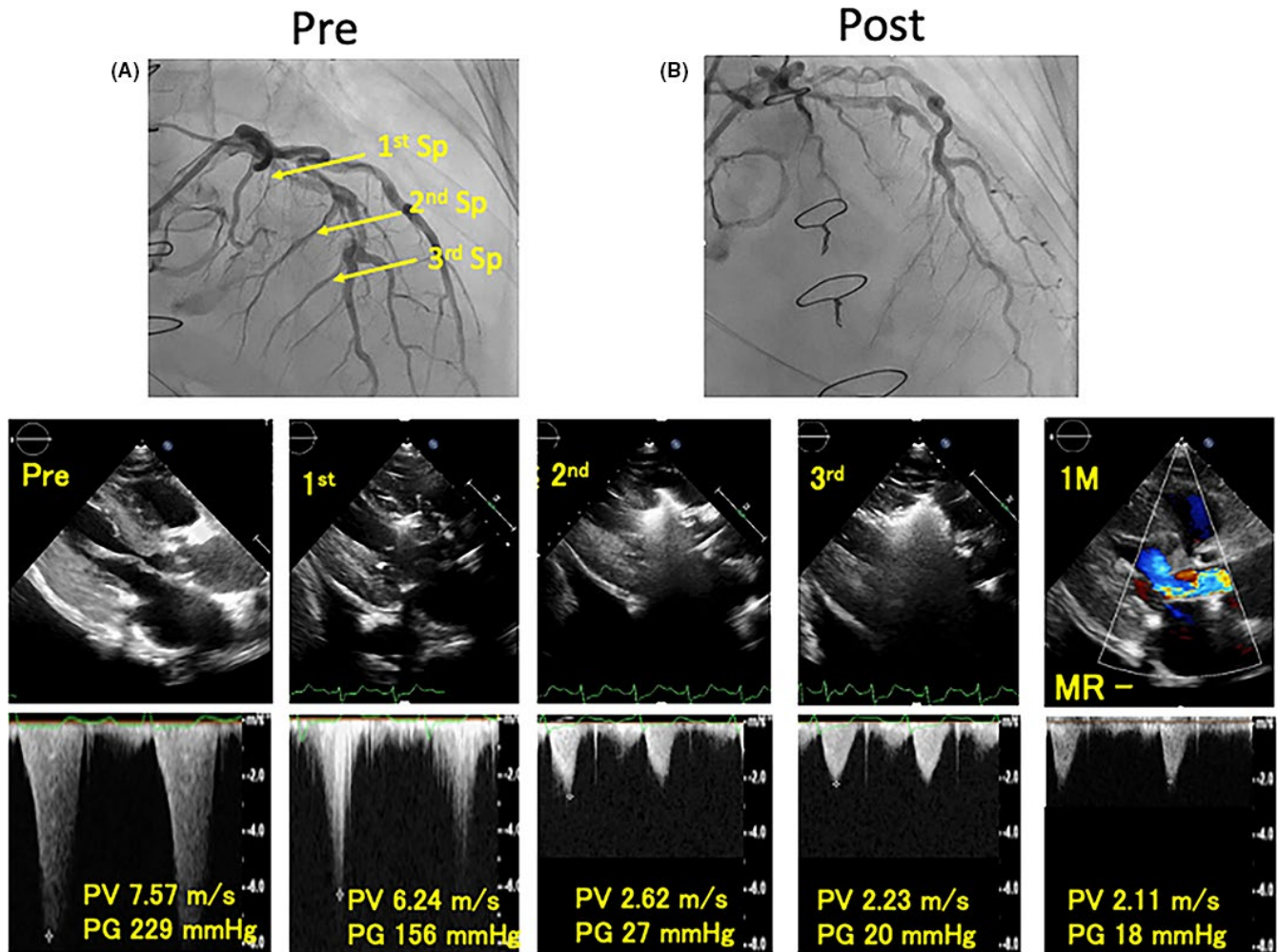


FIGURE 3 Percutaneous transluminal septal myocardial ablation. The first to third septal perforator arteries were accessed for ablation (A) Contrast agent was selectively injected distal to occlusive balloon, and its effects were monitored by simultaneous transthoracic echocardiography. Gradient in LVOT was reduced to from 229 to 20 mmHg immediately after alcohol was injected, without evident malignant arrhythmias (lower panels). Final coronary angiography after alcohol injection shows occluded target septal arteries and no injury to LAD (B) Echocardiography at one month of follow-up shows obvious resolution of mitral regurgitation, SAM, and outflow tract obstruction (lower right panels)

severe LVOT obstruction. Because the patient was at high risk for surgery, we elected to proceed with urgent PTSMA.

The first to third septal perforator arteries were accessed for ablation (Figure 3a) using a guidewire (Sion Blue, Asahi Intecc USA Inc., Santa Ana, CA, USA), then a 1.2×6 and 1.5×6 -mm Mini Trek balloon (Abbott) was inflated. Contrast agent was selectively injected distal to the occlusive balloon, and simultaneous transthoracic echocardiography revealed clear delineation of the proximal septum supplied by this vessel (Figure 3, lower panels). Absolute alcohol (6.7 mL) was injected distal to the occlusive balloon over a period of 40 min.

The intraventricular pressure gradient (20 mmHg) and mitral regurgitation induced by SAM were quickly resolved by PTSMA. No periprocedural complications developed. Final coronary angiography after alcohol injection

showed occluded target septal arteries and no damage to the left anterior descending artery (LAD; Figure 3b). Peak creatinine kinase and creatinine kinase-MB values were 1,693 and 363 IU/L, respectively.

1.3 | Outcome and follow-up

The patient was placed in the cardiac care unit for three days, during which she remained free of malignant arrhythmias. She was discharged on post-procedural day 35 (Figure 4). Echocardiography one month after discharge showed resolution of the mitral regurgitation, SAM, and outflow tract obstruction (Figure 3, lower right panels). She has remained free of LVOT obstruction and symptoms for 3 years after PTSMA.

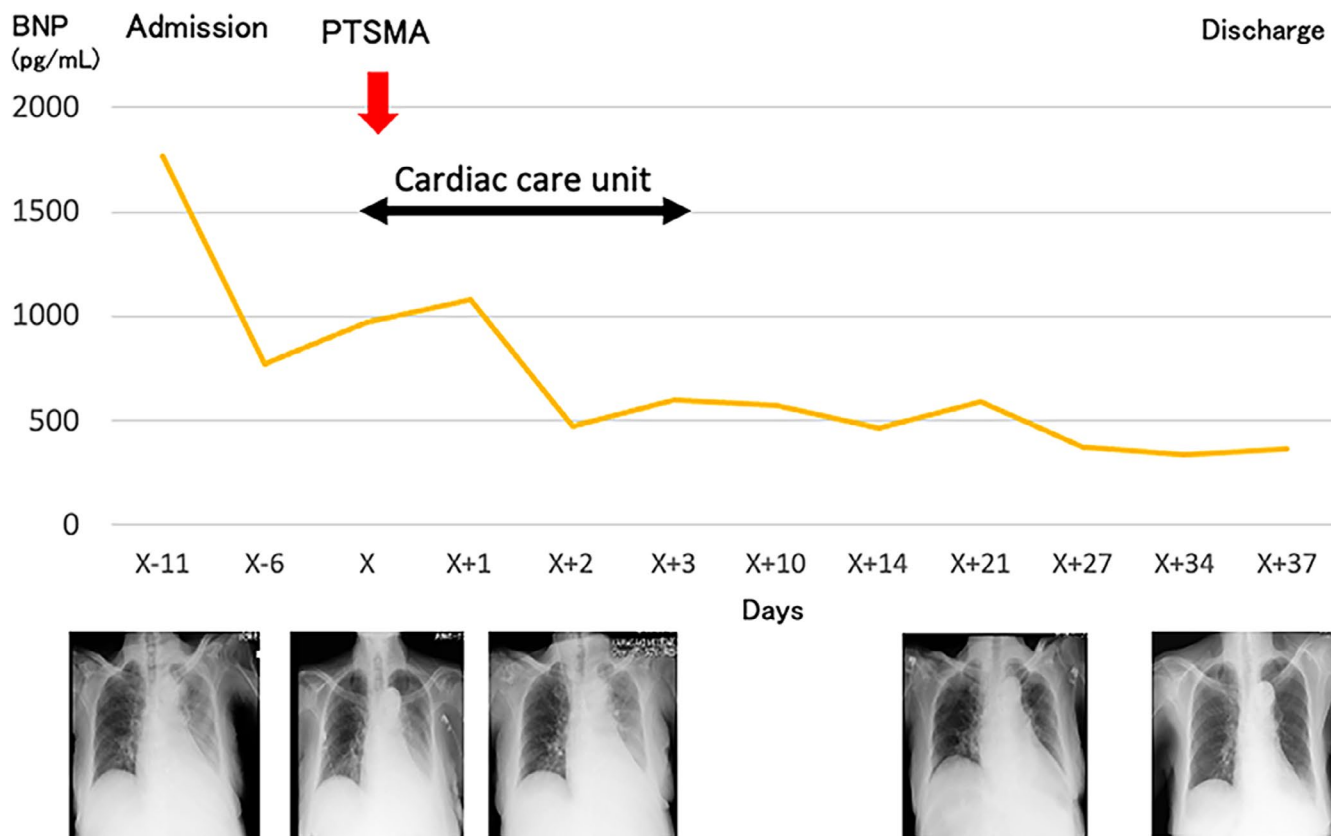


FIGURE 4 Post-procedural progress. Patient remained free of malignant arrhythmias for three days in coronary care unit. She was discharged from hospital on post-procedure day 35 with pleural effusion and laboratory data improvement

2 | DISCUSSION

The key issues in this case are that urgent PTSMA was applied to treat heart failure due to exacerbated LVOT obstruction after surgical AVR, which is an under-recognized cause of postoperative hemodynamic compromise.²

The impact of a prosthesis-patient mismatch on LVOT thickening cannot be overlooked. Peak prosthetic aortic jet velocity in this patient was <3 m/s.

A prospective study has shown that flow velocity is abnormal in 14% of patients at rest after AVR for aortic stenosis and that it can be provoked or worsened by ventricular unloading or inotropic stimulation. The mechanism of a dynamic intraventricular pressure gradient in the setting of a hypertrophic left ventricle might include systolic cavity obliteration or outflow tract obstruction caused by SAM. The role of cavity squeezing rather than SAM is the fundamental mechanism of abnormal flow velocity after AVR³ for aortic stenosis.

Afterload is increased in patients with aortic stenosis, and the ventricle is often small and hypertrophic. Valve replacement induces a dramatic decrease in afterload that might further decrease left ventricular volume and increase fiber shortening. A combination of these factors

might lead to cavity squeezing, which in turn will increase systolic flow velocity.⁴

Percutaneous transluminal septal myocardial ablation was initially reported in 1995 as a novel technique for the nonsurgical reduction of septal hypertrophy in patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM).⁵ Surgical myectomy remains the gold standard of treatment for symptomatic patients who have LVOT obstruction that is refractory to medical therapy, as it is safe and effective over the long-term. However, PTSMA in expert hands can effectively reduce the gradient in selected patients with low-procedural complication rates.⁶

The acute phase complications during PTSMA procedures were arrhythmic events, coronary events (coronary dissection, coronary perforation, acute myocardial infarction, acute pericardial effusion, pericardial tamponade, and alcohol displacement), acute heart failure, cardiac shock, and cardiac death. High-grade AV conduction disturbances in remote phase lead to permanent pacemaker implantation. Residual or recurrent symptoms were observed after discharge; PTSMA was repeated when necessary.

A contemporary, large PTSMA registry in Europe, the Euro-ASA registry, reported the 30-day post-PTSMA

mortality was 1%, and the 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year survival rates after PTSMA were 98%, 89%, and 77%, respectively. However, 12% of all patients required permanent pacemaker implantation because of periprocedural complete atrioventricular block, which was associated with a larger volume of alcohol injection. This registry concluded that PTSMA was effective for drug-refractory HOCM for relieving LVOT obstruction and heart failure symptoms.⁷

Both myectomy and PTSMA reduce LVOT obstruction and significantly improve New York Heart Association functional class in patients with HCM. However, each type of therapy has advantages and disadvantages that must be counterbalanced when deciding how to treat LVOT obstruction.

One case report has described successful PTSMA for heart failure due to significant LVOT obstruction that manifested after AVR7. Although PTSMA relieved LVOT obstruction and symptoms during the acute phase, modest recurrence was confirmed six months later. In contrast, LVOT obstruction and symptoms have not recurred in our patient during 3 years of follow-up after PTSMA.

Both case reports underline the need for PTSMA options with low-procedural morbidity to treat LVOT obstruction, particularly for highly symptomatic patients who are contraindicated for surgery.

3 | CONCLUSION

Urgent PTSMA might be a safe option for treating heart failure due to exacerbated LVOT obstruction after surgical AVR.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

N/A.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

Yoshitaka Sasahira, MD: contributed to coronary intervention and drafting of the manuscript. Ryotaro Yamada, MD: contributed to coronary intervention and revising the manuscript. Naofumi Doi, MD: contributed to coronary intervention and revising the manuscript. Shiro Uemura, MD: contributed to coronary intervention and final approval of the manuscript submitted.

ETHICAL STATEMENT

Ethics committee was not consulted for approval as the case report was written with due permission from the patient and with all possible efforts to maintain complete anonymity.

ORCID

Ryotaro Yamada  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5040-2185>

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