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ST-segment elevation in a patient with cardiac lymphoma

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A 78-year-old man presented with a 1-month history of exertional dyspnoea, anorexia, weight loss and night sweats. On physical examination the patient had a cachectic appearance and multiple 2- to 4-cmdiameter skin lesions (Fig. 1a). Electrocardiography (Fig. 1b) showed ST-segment elevation in leads V₁ and V₂ and ST-segment depression from V₃ to V₆ with no dynamic changes in serial electrocardiograms. Transthoracic echocardiography revealed large heterogeneous masses adhered to the myocardium with no clear cleavage plane, an intermediate echogenicity and involving the right ventricle, the atrioventricular groove and the large vessels (Fig. 1c; Electronic Supplementary Material, videos 1-3). He was admitted and a skin biopsy was performed which was compatible with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

Cardiac lymphoma usually occurs in the context of metastatic involvement and can manifest in a variety of ways, depending on the location of the masses [1, 2]. This patient had no acute myocardial infarction criteria [3]. We hypothesise that the ST changes were explained by the infiltration or displacement of the myocardium by the tumour, mimicking underlying myocardial infarction.

Conflict of interest J.P. Guimarães, J. Trigo, F. Fonçalves and J.I. Moreira declare that they have no competing interests.

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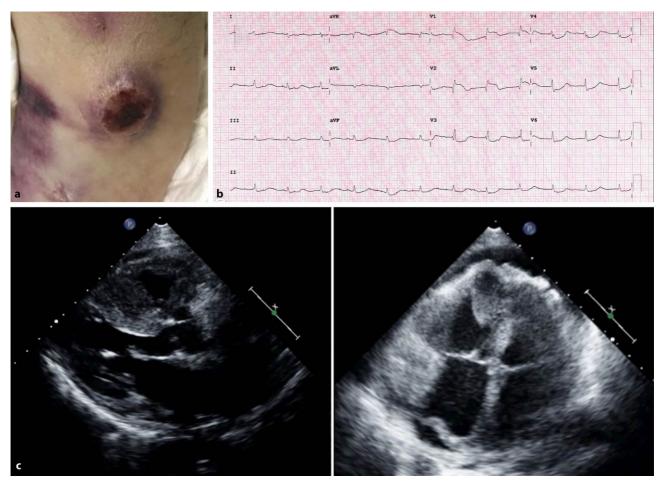


Fig. 1 a Skin lesion with a necrotic centre. b Electrocardiogram. c Echocardiogram showing masses involving the right ventricle, the atrioventricular grooves and the large vessels.

The masses were more exuberant in the right ventricle and right ventricular outflow tract with a maximum width of 25 mm near the right ventricular apex

