

Sea anemone-like appearance of multiple papillary fibroelastoma at the aortic valve cusps

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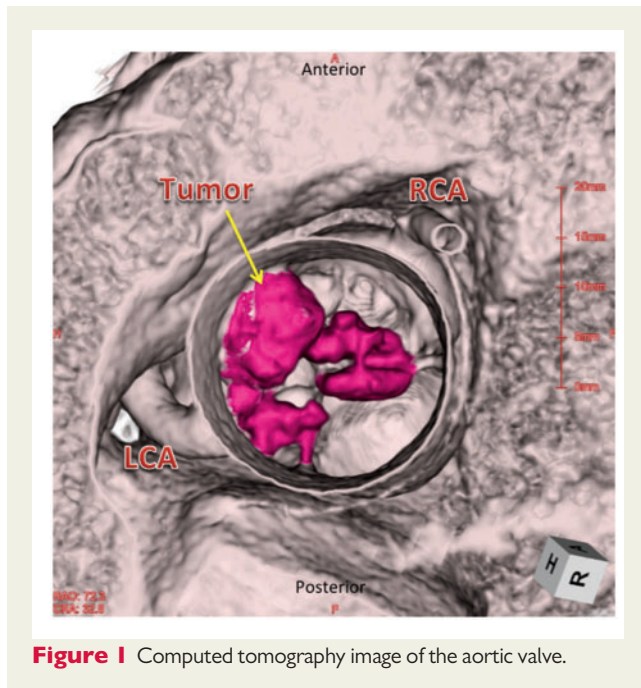
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A 69-year-old woman was diagnosed with a pancreatic cyst. The presence of an aortic valve tumour was suspected during the preoperative assessment using echocardiography. However, she did not complain of any specific clinical symptoms. Her routine blood laboratory examination results were unremarkable. Electrocardiography revealed a normal sinus rhythm. Echocardiography revealed multiple echo-dense supra-valvular masses at the edge of the aortic valve cusp. These masses were moving and displaced during each phase of the cardiac cycle and very close to the orifice of the left coronary artery. Her left ventricular function was normal, and no significant heart valve lesions such as aortic valve stenosis and regurgitation were observed. Enhanced computed tomography also revealed multiple masses at the aortic cusps (Figure 1, Supplementary material online, Video S1).

Because of the risk of embolization, urgent surgery was planned. A transverse aortotomy was made at the proximal ascending aorta, and the aortic valve was inspected. Multiple verrucous masses were found near the free edge of each aortic valve cusp. The largest one was arising from the left coronary cusp near the commissure between the left and the right coronary cusps. Although reports have shown the usefulness of tumour resection with the shaving technique,¹ all tumours attached to the aortic valve cusps were resected because of the multiple large tumours. The excised tumour was immediately put in a saline solution, which resulted in a sea anemone-like appearance (Figure 2, Supplementary material online, Video S2), which is a typical finding of papillary fibroelastoma on gross examination.^{2,3} Aortic valve replacement with a tissue valve was performed, and the postoperative course of the patient was uneventful. The histological finding was papillary fibroelastoma.

Echocardiography, complemented by enhanced computed tomography, provides the location and haemodynamic characteristics of aortic valve tumours. A sea anemone-like appearance is a typical



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finding of papillary fibroelastoma, which is useful in the differential diagnosis of cardiac tumour during surgery.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material is available at *European Heart Journal - Case Reports* online.

Consent: The author/s confirm that written consent for submission and publication of this case report including image(s) and associated text has been obtained from the patient in line with COPE guidance.

Conflict of interest: none declared.

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