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RESEARCH ARTICLE

LEFT VENTRICULAR HEMANGIOMA: A RARE CASE AND BRIEF REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE.

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Abstract

Cardiac hemangiomas are very rare benign cardiac tumors. They can presented at any age and clinical presentation varies according to location and size. We reported the case of patient with left ventricular hemangioma, discovered during routine echocardiography for atypical chest pain. Surgical resection was successfully performed and histology confirmed cardiac cavernous hemangioma.

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Introduction:-

Cardiac hemangiomas are extremely rare benign vascular tumors of the heart (1). They can present in any age, and their clinical presentation varies according to location, size and extension of the tumor. Diagnosis is usually made with echocardiography and treatment of choice is simple complete excision (2,4). We report a case of left ventricular hemangioma, discovered incidentally by echocardiography for atypical chest pain and removed surgically with favorable outcomes.

Case report:

A 59-year-old man, with history of hypertension and chronic active smoking, consulting for atypical chest pain without other symptoms. His physical examination was normal.

The electrocardiogram (ECG) showed sinus rhythm at 75 beats/min and left ventricular hypertrophy with strain pattern. Echocardiography revealed a mobile and heterogeneous spheric mass of 1.5x1.5mm, with a stalk arising from the anteroseptal wall of the left ventricle (figure 1), which had a concentric remodeling with a good systolic function EF (ejection fraction) at 58%. The computed tomography scan (CT) did not show another progressive lesions. The biological assessment was normal including tumor markers.

The patient received operation of cardiac tumor resection.

Macroscopically, the mass was a smooth oval nodule 1,5 X 1 X 0.8 cm with 0.1cm pedicle (figure 3). Postoperative histopathological examination confirmed a cavernous hemangioma (figure 4,5). The patient had an uneventful post-operative course and he recovered quickly.

Discussion:-

The general incidence of primary tumors was estimated at 0.0017% from a large series of autopsies. Cardiac hemangiomas are very rare benign vascular tumors representing less than 3% of all primary cardiac tumors (4). They may be classified as: 1) cavernous hemangioma (multiple, dilated, thin-walled vessels); 2) capillary

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hemangioma (small vessels resembling capillaries); and 3) arteriovenous hemangioma or cirroid aneurysm (dysplastic malformation of arteries and veins) Often, some combination of these features was seen in the same patient (5).

The disease can occur at any age with no significant difference in prevalence of men and women, and with no obvious family history (8). Most cardiac hemangiomas are asymptomatic and discovered incidentally on echocardiography, computed tomography (CT), cardiac magnetic resonance image (MRI), or at autopsy. Clinical presentation when symptomatic varies according to location, size, and mobility of the tumor. They can present as arrhythmias, atypical angina, pericardial effusion, tamponade, congestive heart failure, outflow tract obstruction, embolic events, or can cause sudden cardiac death (1,3,6). Anatomically, they may arise in any part of the heart, but they were more commonly found in the lateral wall of the left ventricle (21%), the anterior wall of the right ventricle (21%), and the interventricular septum (17%) (9).

Most reported hemangiomas were small, subendocardial, bluish nodules and ranging from 2.0 to 3.5 cm in diameter. The lesions were sessile or polypoid and usually single, but sometimes were multiple (10). Imageological examination was essential in the screening of cardiac hemangioma and the diagnosis before operation. Echocardiography can accurately display the location, size of the tumor, clarify its relationship with the myocardium, valves and hemodynamic effects, and assess the tumor mobility, which provide critical information for diagnosis and decision for surgical plan (8). The computed tomography scans (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging findings of cardiac hemangiomas had been useful to confirm the findings and to evaluate extracardiac extension and myocardia (1).

Grebenc et al found that cardiac hemangiomas had a heterogeneous density on unenhanced CT, and, in most cases, intensely enhance on CT performed after intravenous contrast administration (7). Angiography may also help establish the diagnosis of a hemangioma by showing the characteristic tumor blush (1,11).

The natural history of these tumors was unpredictable, they may regress, cease growing, or continue to proliferate (2).

For this reason, surgical intervention was indicated to confirm diagnosis and to excise the mass when technically feasible. Follow-up was recommended to identify any recurrence, even though the rate of recurrence is unknown (5,11).

Conclusion:-

We report a cardiac hemangioma at the left ventricle with non-specific cardiac symptoms. The tumor was identified by transthoracic echocardiography and CT scan. However, final diagnosis was made only after surgical resection and histological examination. The patient had a favorable outcome without any evidence of echocardiographic recurrence.



Figure 1:- Transthoracic echocardiography showed a mobile tumor attached to the anteroseptal wall of the ventricle(LV).



Figure 2:- Multidetector computed tomography showed a 1,75cm *2,57 cm tumor in the left ventricle.



Figure 3:- Macroscopy image of the excised mass of the left ventricular.

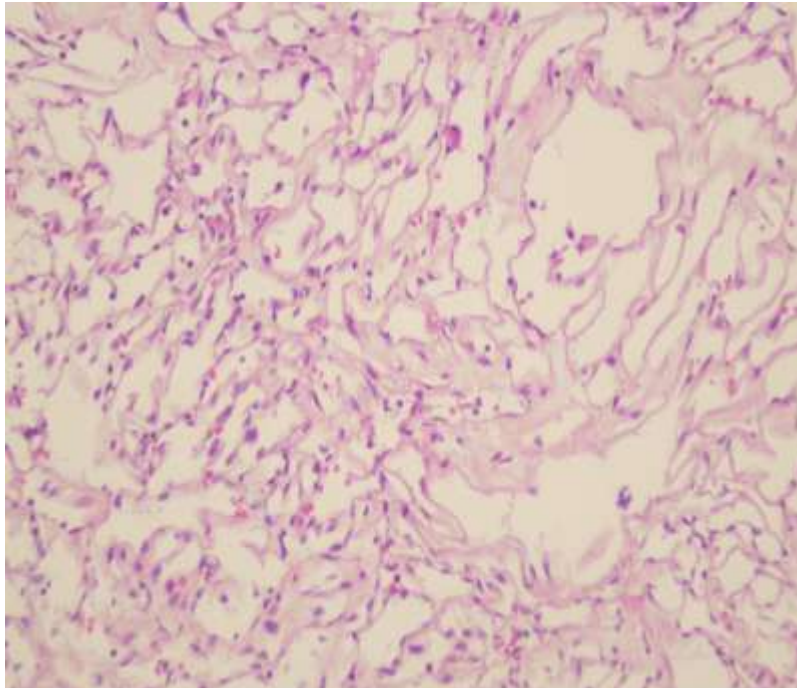


Figure 4:- Photomicrograph of hemangioma: Vascular proliferation made of numerous dilates bordered by a regular endothelium(HES ,G*40).

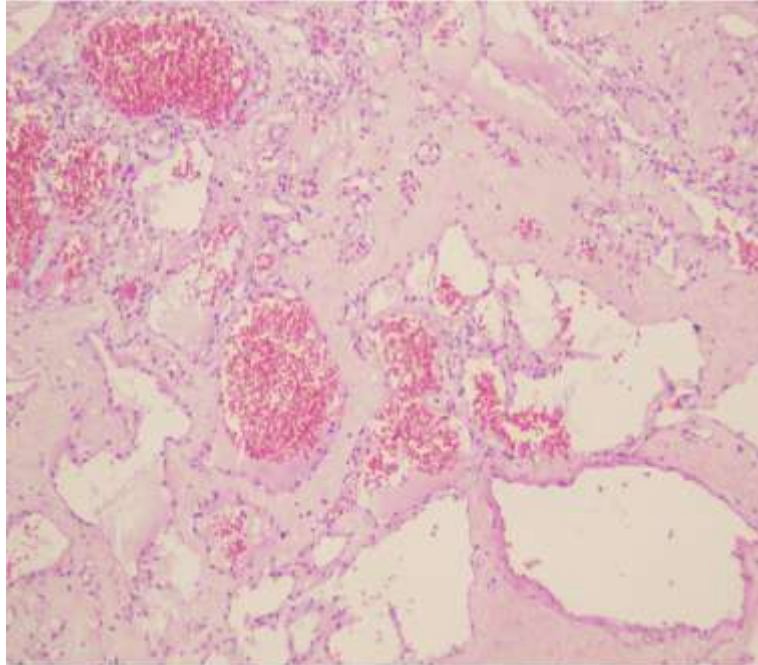


Figure 5:- Histological image showing Anastomosing lacunae containing a few red blood cells separated by fibrous septa bordered by endothelial cells (HES, G*10).

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