A case of left atrial appendage thrombus

À propos d’un cas de thrombus de l’auricule gauche

Mounia Lazraq*, Jamila Zarzur, M’hamed Arharbi

Service de cardiologie B, maternité Souissi, CHU Ibn-Sina, Rabat, Morocco

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We report the case of a 26 year-old woman with a history of dyspnea and palpitations. The results of physical examination, chest radiography and electrocardiography were normal. Transthoracic echocardiography revealed a hyperechoic mass in the left atrium, moving from the upper part of the left atrium to the lower part and protruding through the mitral orifice in systole (Fig. 1A). Transoesophageal echocardiography showed the left atrial mass to be a thrombus emerging from the left atrial appendage (Fig. 1B and C).

After one week of anticoagulation, the thrombus decreased in size and disappeared, as shown on transthoracic echocardiography (Fig. 1D) and confirmed by tranoesophageal echocardiography.

A diagnosis was made of paroxystic atrial flutter complicated by an atrial thrombus. This study underlines the value of transoesophageal echocardiography in the etiological diagnosis of left atrial mass.

* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: idmou@hotmail.com (M. Lazraq).
Figure 1. A: transthoracic echocardiography and B, C: transoesophageal echocardiography showing a thrombus in the left atrium protruding through the mitral orifice in systole. D: after anticoagulation, transthoracic echocardiography revealed that the thrombus had disappeared.