Concomitant acute stroke, pulmonary and myocardial infarction due to in-transient thrombus across a patent foramen ovale

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Summary

Non-atherosclerotic myocardial infarction (MI) is an important but often misdiagnosed cause of acute MI. Furthermore, non-atherosclerotic MI with concomitant acute stroke and pulmonary embolism due to in-transit thrombus across a patent foramen ovale (PFO) is a rare but potentially fatal combination (1, 2, 3). Early detection of this clinical entity can facilitate delivery of targeted therapies and avoid poor outcome (1, 2). Here, we describe a 68-year-old female with hypertension, tobacco abuse and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease presenting with facial droop, right arm weakness and aphasia. Head computed tomography (CT) without contrast was unremarkable. ECG showed an acute inferolateral ST-elevation MI (Fig. 1, Panel A). As patient presented with both an acute neurological deficit and MI, clinical suspicion of non-atherosclerotic MI was raised and the patient underwent concurrent emergency coronary angiography (CAG) and transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE). TEE revealed highly mobile masses in the left and right atrium (Fig. 1, Panel B and Video 1). The large mass (thrombus or cast of a deep venous thrombus) was caught in a PFO (Fig. 1, Panel C, D, E and Videos 2, 3). A second smaller mass/thrombus was seen on the Eustachian valve near the right atrial/inferior vena cava junction (Fig. 1, Panel F and Video 4). CAG confirmed a 100% occluded distal right posterolateral artery suggestive of an embolic phenomenon. The patient underwent successful thrombectomy, retrieving a large thrombus burden (Fig. 1, Panel G and Videos 5, 6, 7). CT angiography showed occluded internal carotid artery (Fig. 1, Panel H). Pathology from thrombectomy confirmed fibrin-rich thrombus. The patient had bilateral lower extremity deep vein thrombosis and bilateral diffuse pulmonary embolisms.

Video 1

Video 2
TEE four-chamber view showing the large thrombus that was caught in a PFO. View Video 2 at http://movie-usa.glencoesoftware.com/video/10.1530/ERP-18-0044/video-2.

Video 3

Video 4

Video 5
S Barros-Gomes et al. Paradoxical embolism

Video 6

Video 7

Patient consent
Images are anonymized. Permission to publish was obtained from a relative.

Author contribution statement
Contribution to the patient care: Sergio Barros-Gomes; Abdallah El Sabbagh; Mackram F Eleid; Sunil V Mankad. Study design, conception and writing the manuscript: Sergio Barros-Gomes and Sunil V Mankad. Revision of the manuscript: Sergio Barros-Gomes; Abdallah, El Sabbagh; Mackram F Eleid; Sunil V Mankad.

References

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