Isolated posterior mitral valve cleft

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Case report

A 55-year-old man who presented with a history of atypical angina during the last five years, felt left sided epigastric pain after eating but not during physical or emotional stress. Cardiovascular risk factors included smoking, hypertension, hypercholesterolaemia and a family history for premature coronary artery disease. Physical examination revealed an obese patient (BMI 36 kg/m²) in no acute distress. Blood pressure was 154/80 mm Hg, pulse 72 bpm. Cardiac exam disclosed a 2/6 holosystolic murmur at the lower left sternal border. No signs of congestion were evident. The ECG showed sinus rhythm and no ST/T abnormalities. Chest X-ray was within normal limits. On treadmill exercise test, the patient remained asymptomatic and was able to exercise 160 Watt. However, there was a horizontal ST-segment depression in lead V₆. The subsequent coronary angiography demonstrated severe three vessel disease with chronic occlusion of the left anterior descending and the circumflex coronary artery and a 75% stenosis in the right coronary artery. There was evidence of mitral regurgitation. Echocardiography showed normal left and right ventricular dimensions.

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Cleft mitral valve is a relatively uncommon entity and the anterior leaflet is almost always involved [1]. Clefts in the anterior leaflet may occur in patients with otherwise normal hearts as well as in patients with atrioventricular septal defects [2]. Clefts in the posterior mitral valve leaflets are very rare and only a few cases have been reported in literature [3, 4]. Treatment options in patients with relevant mitral regurgitation range from surgical reconstruction to mitral valve replacement. In our patient, the cleft was sutured, the prolapsing anterior leaflet was fixed and a 30 mm annuloplasty ring was inserted. Postoperative echocardiography showed mild residual mitral regurgitation. The patient was discharged for rehabilitation seven days after the operation.

References