Inflammatory aneurysm of the ascending aorta

Matthias Roth*, Markus Schönburg, Wolf-Peter Klövekorn, Erwin Philipp Bauer

Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Kerckhoff Clinic Foundation, Benekestrasse 2–8, 61231 Bad Nauheim, Germany

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A 55-year old woman was admitted with an acute episode of chest pain. MRI imaging showed an aneurysm of the ascending aorta (5.4 cm in diameter) with intramural hematoma suspicious of aortic dissection (Fig. 1). Surprisingly at operation an inflammatory aneurysm of the ascending aorta was found (Fig. 2). The aorta was replaced by a 30 mm dacron graft using CPB and hypothermic circulatory arrest. Pathologic examination revealed an inflammatory aneurysm with inflammatory infiltrates and minimal atherosclerosis. The patient is well 20 months after surgery. Additional MRI controls showed no progression of the disease.