Lipomatous hypertrophy of the interatrial septum

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Received 11 August 2005; accepted 20 August 2005
Available online 29 September 2005

KEYWORDS
Interatrial septum; Fossa ovalis; Lipomatous hypertrophy of the interatrial septum

Abstract    Lipomatous hypertrophy of the interatrial septum is a rare condition and it does not require any specific treatment. We present the transoesophageal echocardiogram findings of a 70-year-old lady demonstrating the appearances that were typical of lipomatous hypertrophy of the interatrial septum. © 2005 The European Society of Cardiology. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

A 70-year-old female presented with exertional dyspnoea for 6 months. On general physical examination the patient appeared well. The electrocardiogram demonstrated sinus rhythm. A transthoracic echocardiogram showed a mass attached to the interatrial septum best visualised in the subcostal views. A transoesophageal echocardiogram demonstrated appearances that were typical of lipomatous hypertrophy of the interatrial septum. The interatrial septum was unusually thick with a typical dumbbell shaped configuration and the membrane of the fossa ovalis was spared (Fig. 1).

Lipomatous hypertrophy of the interatrial septum is a rare condition and it does not require any specific treatment. It has been known to be associated with arterial embolization, pulmonary embolism and cardiac arrhythmias. It can be mistaken for a tumour and therefore it is important to recognise this entity.

Figure 1    Transoesophageal echocardiogram shows the typical dumbbell shaped configuration of the IAS. The membrane of the fossa ovalis is spared. Arrow.

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doi:10.1016/j.euje.2005.08.005