Clinical vignette

Inadvertent grafting of the posterior cardiac vein during coronary artery bypass graft surgery

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A 74-year-old male patient who had a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery 14 years ago underwent coronary angiography for pre-operative evaluation for non-cardiac surgery. He was reported to have a left internal thoracic artery (LITA) graft to the left anterior descending coronary artery and a saphenous vein graft sequentially to the first and second obtuse marginal arteries. The coronary angiogram revealed a patent LITA graft. As the saphenous vein graft is engaged, the injection revealed simultaneous opacification of the obtuse marginal artery and the coronary sinus, which indicates inadvertent grafting of the posterior cardiac vein instead of the first obtuse marginal artery (Panel A, white arrow). The vein graft was then anastomosed sequentially to the second obtuse marginal. The left anterior oblique projection revealed retrograde opacification of the middle cardiac vein (Panel B, black arrow). As the patient was asymptomatic and no objective signs of ischaemia were found by non-invasive testing, we did not attempt any further intervention.