A carcinoma of the breast mimicking a pacemaker pocket infection

Luca De Mattia*, Marco Brieda, and Ermanno Dametto

Department of Cardiology A.R.C., Azienda Ospedaliera Santa Maria degli Angeli, via Montereale 24, 33170 Pordenone (PN), Italy
*Corresponding author. Tel: +39 0434 399 120; fax: +39 0434 399 932, Email: dmluca.it@libero.it

An 87-year-old woman was evaluated for a suspected pacemaker pocket granuloma infection after 7 years of pacing therapy.

A firm, coin-size lesion (Panel A, arrow) with signs of skin erosion was observed near the pacemaker pocket (circle). C-reactive protein, white-cell blood count, and other routine blood tests were normal.

An ultrasound study of the lesion (Panel B) showed a solid subcutaneous mass containing calcium deposits (empty arrow). Colour Doppler imaging of the lesion displayed the presence of a vascular structure (green arrow) in the mass.

A mammography (Panel C) revealed a round spiculate mass (arrows) caudal to the pacemaker pocket. A biopsy specimen was diagnostic for invasive ductal carcinoma of the breast.

Conflict of interest: none declared.

Published on behalf of the European Society of Cardiology. All rights reserved. © The Author 2010. For permissions please email: journals.permissions@oxfordjournals.org.