Aortic dissection as a first sign of polycystic kidney disease in a 26-year old young adult

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Received 26 June 2012; received in revised form 10 September 2012; accepted 16 September 2012

Keywords: Dissecting aneurysm • Polycystic kidney disease • Surgery

A 26-year old man was referred to the emergency department with sudden stabbing chest and back pain. Computed tomography revealed Stanford type A aortic dissection and also incidentally polycystic kidney disease (Fig. 1). The patient was successfully treated by replacing the ascending aorta and hemi-arcus with a prosthetic graft.

Figure 1: Coronal computed tomographic image demonstrates the bilateral polycystic kidneys (asterisks) and Stanford type A dissection (arrows). Note the dissection flap at the length of the entire descending and abdominal aorta. The dimensions of the right and left kidneys were 113 × 127 × 182 mm and 118 × 134 × 179 mm, respectively.