Characteristics of presystolic flow in the superior vena cava: new thoughts on a forgotten sound


ABSTRACTS IN CARDIOLOGY

Prediction of sudden death in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

Abnormalities of heavy chain myosin account for perhaps 50% of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). It now seems that the site and nature of the amino acid change influence survival. Why should this be? One possibility is that the substitutions interfere to a different degree in myofibrillar organisation within the myocyte. It is probably significant that the substitution leading to a change in charge has the greatest deleterious effect on survival. Abnormal myofibrillar organisation probably leads in turn to misshapen cells and abnormalities in cell to cell organisation producing disarray and an ideal substrate for arrhythmias. Family history remains a cheap way of identifying those with HCM at high risk of sudden premature death but a good case can be made for determining the exact gene abnormality. The understanding of how HCM affects myocyte structure will be further forwarded when the other genes unrelated to heavy chain myosin are discovered. These are exciting times for those interested in HCM.

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Characteristics and prognostic implications of myosin missense mutations in familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

Hugh Watkins, Anthony Rearick, Tam Selwyn, Tantana Lavi, William McKenna, Christopher S. Stocks, J C Saldino

Abstract. Background. Familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is characterised by variable degrees of systolic hypertension and a wide range of symptoms. Different mutations in myosin heavy chain (HCM) gene are responsible for familial HCM. Mutations in this gene result in abnormal myofibrillar organisation and dysfunction. The clinical phenotype of HCM is considered to be a function of the genetic defect and the extent of abnormal myofibrillar organisation within the myocyte. Hence, the understanding of how HCM affects myocyte structure will be further forwarded when other genes unrelated to heavy chain myosin are discovered. These are exciting times for those interested in HCM.

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