CASE REPORT

Left ventricular haemangioma with papillary endothelial hyperplasia and liver involvement

C-D Kan, C-T Yae, Y-J Yang

An intracardiac haemangioma with papillary endothelial hyperplasia (PEH) and liver involvement has not been previously reported in the English literature. This report describes a 65 year old man with a left ventricular haemangioma with PEH coexistent with multiple nodular hepatic haemangiomas. Transthoracic and transoesophageal echocardiography identified a large tumour in the left ventricular cavity with a pedicle connected to the apex. Abdominal sonography also identified multiple hyperechoic hepatic tumours. Magnetic resonance imaging showed hypervascularity of both the cardiac and hepatic lesions. The left ventricular tumour was totally resected and the liver nodules were biopsied. Tissue pathological study showed that both the left ventricular tumour and liver lesions were haemangiomas with PEH. The patient was discharged without complications postoperatively.

Papillary endothelial hyperplasia (PEH, Masson’s pseudo-angiosarcoma) is a vascular proliferative lesion that occurs as a reaction to traumatic vascular stasis rather than being a true neoplasm. The process is typically observed in the subcutaneous tissue of the finger, head, and neck, thyroid, and adrenal gland. It usually occurs in dilated vascular spaces or haemangiomas. Although most intracardiac haemangiomas with PEH are solitary, a few reports have described cardiac haemangiomas with PEH and the involvement of another organ. Herein, a rare case is described in a patient who was found to have a solitary mass in his heart and multiple nodules in his liver, which were ultimately diagnosed histopathologically as haemangiomas with PEH.

DISCUSSION

PEH, a well recognised but infrequently reported histological diagnosis, is a common vascular tumour of soft tissues and was first described by Pierre Masson in 1923. Although most intracardiac haemangiomas with PEH are solitary, a few reports have described cardiac haemangiomas with PEH and the involvement of another organ. Herein, a rare case is described in a patient who was found to have a solitary mass in his heart and multiple nodules in his liver, which were ultimately diagnosed histopathologically as haemangiomas with PEH.

An intracardiac haemangioma with papillary endothelial hyperplasia (PEH) and liver involvement has not been previously reported in the English literature. This report describes a 65 year old man with a left ventricular haemangioma with PEH coexistent with multiple nodular hepatic haemangiomas. Transthoracic and transoesophageal echocardiography identified a large tumour in the left ventricular cavity with a pedicle connected to the apex. Abdominal sonography also identified multiple hyperechoic hepatic tumours. Magnetic resonance imaging showed hypervascularity of both the cardiac and hepatic lesions. The left ventricular tumour was totally resected and the liver nodules were biopsied. Tissue pathological study showed that both the left ventricular tumour and liver lesions were haemangiomas with PEH. The patient was discharged without complications postoperatively.
Figure 1  (A, B, C) Sagittal and axial T1 weighted magnetic resonance imaging with fat saturation after gadolinium enhancement showing a well enhanced tumour within the left ventricle, distinct from the myocardium, and about 6 cm in size. Multiple enhanced tumours of various sizes were also found throughout the liver. Signal voids were noted in the left ventricle and right lobe of the liver, consistent with calcification. (D) The excised gross tumour.

Figure 2  (A) Section of material resected from the cardiac mass; numerous papillae are seen, covered by a single layer of innocent looking endothelial cells (haematoxylin and eosin; original magnification ×40). (B) Section of material resected from hepatic nodules, showing the same papillary structure as in the cardiac mass, with sparing of the portal areas. (Haematoxylin and eosin; original magnification ×100)
albeit puzzling, initial diagnosis. Despite the apparently well progressed nature of the disease, complete surgical resection still seemed indicated, owing to the potential for the floating mass in the left ventricular cavity to induce ventricular arrhythmias, sudden death, or systemic dissemination of the thrombus. Ultimately this led to the correct diagnosis. This case serves to highlight how hypervascular cardiac or hepatic tumours may in fact be of vascular origin, rather than metabolically active malignant or metastatic tumours with correspondingly increased vascularity.

Authors’ affiliations
C-D Kan*, Y-J Yang, Department of Surgery, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Tainan, Taiwan
C-T Yae, Department of Pathology, National Cheng Kung University Hospital

*Also Institute of Clinical Medicine, Medical College, National Cheng Kung University

Correspondence to: Dr Y-J Yang, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, 138 Sheng-Li Road, Tainan 704, Taiwan; kcd56@mail.ncku.edu.tw

Accepted 22 April 2004

REFERENCES