Enlarged Right Atrium Falsely Interpreted as a Mediastinal Mass: A Case Report

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ARTICLE INFO

Article type: Image in Cardio-Thoracic Medicine

Article history:
Received: 3 Jun 2014
Revised: 5 July 2015
Accepted: 3 Aug 2015

Keywords:
Chest X-ray
Echocardiography
Heart Atria
Mass
Mediastinal Disease

ABSTRACT

Right atrial dilation due to left heart disease is a common complication among adults. The present review aimed to describe a case of massively dilated right atrium in a female patient presenting with valvular heart disease and no atrial fibrillation. The results of chest X-ray revealed a large opacity filling the lower right hemithorax, falsely interpreted as a mediastinal mass. During the transesophageal echocardiography, severe enlargement of the right atrium was detected, and open mitral and tricuspid valve replacements were performed successfully.

Learning Points:
- Right atrial dilation due to left heart disease is a common complication among adults.
Therefore, it should be taken into account in the differential diagnosis of mediastinal masses.

According to the literature, the most common causes of enlarged right atrium in adults are chronic pulmonary disease, tricuspid valvular stenosis, severe mitral valvular pathology with pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary embolism and infarction (1).

Absence of atrial fibrillation in the described patient was noteworthy.

References