



Uncommonly

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Introduction

- Aortic thrombus is a rare complication of malignancy in the absence of other aortic disease
- While venous thrombosis has a well-established association with cancer, arterial thrombosis has not been reported as extensively

Patient Case

- 47 year old female with past medical history significant for hypothyroidism and prior DVT secondary to leg fracture presents with sudden onset epigastric abdominal pain
- Computed tomography angiography (CTA) reveals intraluminal thrombi at the distal thoracic aortic arch and distal abdominal aorta proximal to the bifurcation
- She was admitted, treated with intravenous heparin and then bridged to warfarin

Patient Case Cont.

- During outpatient follow-up, a transvaginal ultrasound revealed a 10cm left adnexal mass with bloodwork revealing elevated carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA)
- A colonoscopy was performed which revealed an 8.5cm fungating and ulcerated mass in the proximal ascending colon. Biopsy was positive for adenocarcinoma
- She undergoes a right colectomy, small bowel resection, salpingo-oophorectomy, and omentectomy. Ovarian mass pathology was positive for adenocarcinoma of the colon
- Diagnosis of stage 4 colon adenocarcinoma is made and patient was started on FOLFOX chemotherapy



Figure 1 (A) Coronal view, contrast enhanced CT angiogram. Arrowhead points to aorta with intraluminal thrombi. (B) Sagittal view of aortic thrombus

Discussion

- Aortic thrombus is a rare phenomenon in the absence of aneurysmal disease, dissection, or severe atherosclerosis
- One study has shown that 11.5% of patients with arterial thrombosis had an associated malignancy
- Pathogenesis remains unclear but likely related to release of thrombin and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) from cancer cells
- Management: anticoagulation regimen has been shown to be as effective as surgical intervention.
- Evaluation for malignancy is recommended in patients presenting with aortic thrombus

References

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