

CASE IMAGE

Massive left atrial calcification

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Abstract

We reported this case because calcification of the mitral valve is a common complication of rheumatic fever, but calcification of the left atrium is rare.

KEYWORDS

left atrial calcification, rheumatic fever

A 73-year-old woman with a previous history of cerebral infarction and rheumatic fever was referred for heart failure and atrial fibrillation. A chest X-ray showed an enlarged cardiac shadow and pleural effusion (A). The plain chest computed tomography (CT) showed massive calcification (B, C) of left atrium (LA). Echocardiography revealed severe calcification of mitral valve and concomitant mitral stenosis (0.43 cm²). Surgical mitral valve replacement was performed. The left atrium was wholly

calcified, as in CT (D, white arrow). The patient was discharged from the hospital postoperatively without any complications. The presence of massive LA calcification is extremely rare, and it has been proposed to represent the result of long-standing rheumatic heart disease. Surgical removal of the LA calcification was associated with difficulty in entering the LA, potential for embolization, and hemostatic failure, with a surgical mortality rate of up to 25% (Figure 1).¹

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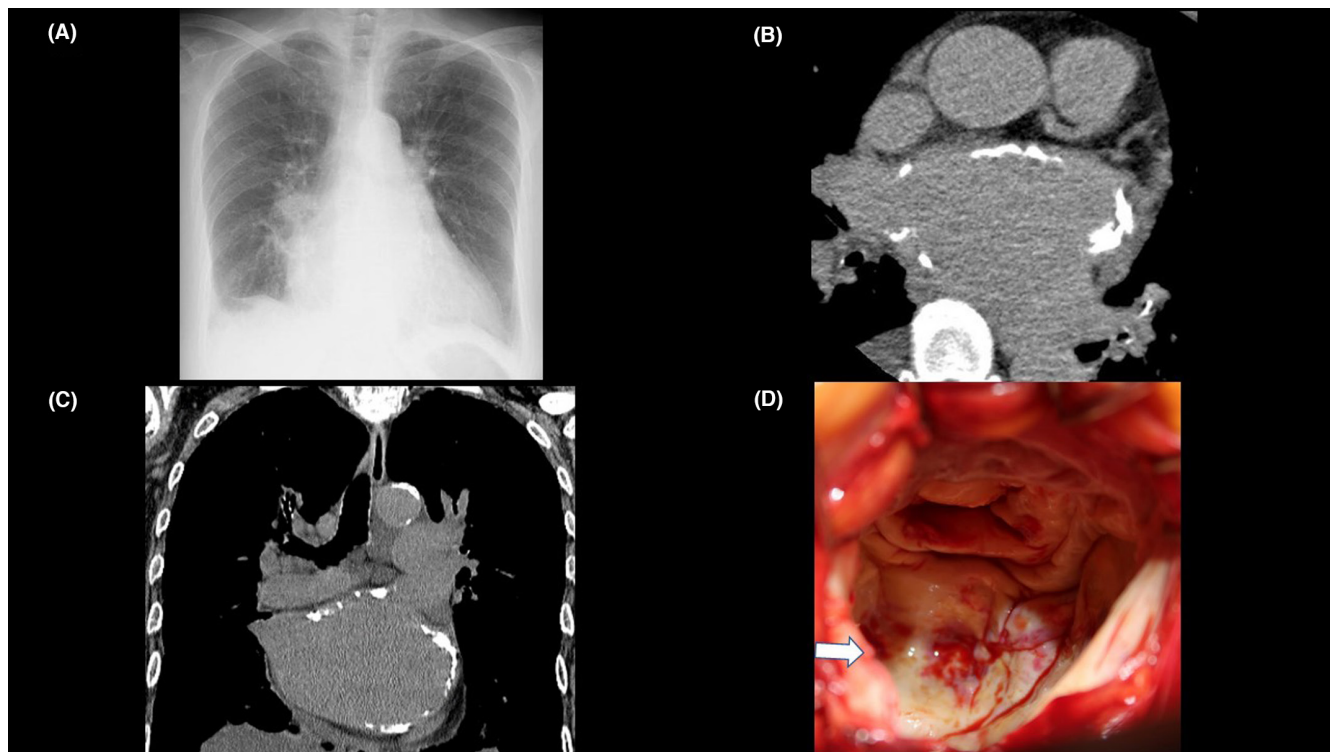


FIGURE 1 (A) Chest X-ray at the admission. (B) The plain chest computed tomography (CT) showed left atrial massive calcification (axial view). (C) The plain chest computed tomography (CT) showed left atrial massive calcification (coronal view). (D) The left atrium was wholly calcified, as in CT.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Masaki Monden: Data curation.

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None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

We have no potential conflicts of interest related to this manuscript.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data available on request due to privacy/ethical restrictions.

CONSENT

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient to publish this report in accordance with the journal's patient consent policy.

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