

A bag of diamonds

S. Trenson, M. de Ceuninck

Department of Cardiology, AZ Delta Campus Heilig-Hartziekenhuis Roeselare, Wilgenstraat 2, 8800 Roeselare, Belgium.

Quiz

A 63-year-old man with a psychiatric background presented for cardiac evaluation. Coronary angiography incidentally revealed a remarkable image of the left hypochonder (Fig. 1A). What do you see and what is your differential diagnosis?

Solution

The bag of diamonds, seen in the left hypochonder, is the spleen, completely filled with dense calcifications (Fig. 1A). The findings were confirmed with abdominal X-ray, ultrasound and Computed Tomography imaging (Fig. 1B-D). Splenic dimensions were 121 x 56 x 104 mm. Splenic calcifications are mostly incidental findings in medical imaging, and rarely seen to this extension. The differential diagnosis is wide. The patient should be screened for infections (tuberculosis and other mycobacterial infections, histoplasmosis, brucellosis, echinococcosis, candidiasis, *Pneumocystis jiroveci* and Bartonellosis), tumors (hemangioma, hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma) and rare conditions as sickle cell disease, amyloidosis and connective tissue disorders (systemic lupus erythematosus). Anamnesis might reveal celiac disease in childhood or anthracosilicosis (1-3). The investigation in this patient was completely negative, but may probably be explained by a post-infectious disorder, due to e.g. unknown history of tuberculosis, given the calcified lymph nodes in the liver hilus as seen in the transverse plane of the Computed Tomography (Fig. 1D, white arrow). In this patient no further treatment was needed.

Conflicts of interest

None.

References

1. FYFE AJ, GALLIPOLI P. Multiple splenic calcifications. *Br. J. Haematol.*, 2009, **144** : 808.
2. FARRAS JA, AVOUAC J, MEUNIER M, ALLANORE Y. Spleen calcifications in connective tissue disorders. *Semin. Arthritis Rheum.*, 2012, **41** : 1-2.
3. MAHESWARI A, ANEJA S, KUMAR P, et al. Celiac disease with splenic calcifications. *Indian J. Pediatr.*, 2011, **78** : 740-2.

A Coronary angiography - left hypochonder



B Abdominal X-ray



C Abdominal Ultrasound



Computed Tomography - Transverse plane



Computed Tomography - Longitudinal plane

D Computed Tomography - Frontal plane

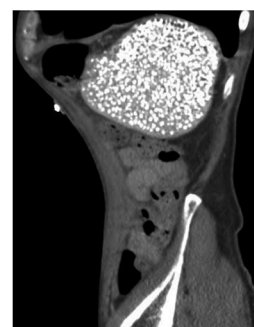


Figure 1. —A : Coronary angiography close-up of left hypochonder. B : Abdominal X-ray. C : Abdominal ultrasound. D : Computed Tomography in frontal, transverse and longitudinal plane. Liver hilus lymph node calcifications are indicated with a white arrow.

Correspondence to: Sander Trenson, Department of Cardiology, AZ Delta Campus Heilig-Hartziekenhuis Roeselare, Wilgenstraat 2, 8800 Roeselare, Belgium.

E-mail : sander.trenson@gmail.com

Submission date : 13/11/2019

Acceptance date : 27/11/2019