

PSEUDOANEURISMA DA ARTÉRIA PULMONAR: UMA LESÃO VASCULAR RARA APÓS CATETERISMO CARDÍACO DIREITO

PULMONARY ARTERY PSEUDOANEURYSM: A RARE VASCULAR LESION AFTER RIGHT HEART CATHETERIZATION

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RESUMO

Os pseudoaneurismas da artéria pulmonar podem ser causados por infecção, trauma, lesões neoplásicas ou iatrogênicas, tal como a ruptura durante cateterismo cardíaco direito. O quadro clínico pode variar desde um achado incidental até uma hemorragia severa com hemoptise massiva. Apresentamos um caso de uma mulher de 67 anos com antecedentes de esclerodermia que desenvolveu uma hemoptise massiva após cateterismo cardíaco direito. A angiografia por tomografia computadorizada demonstrou um pseudoaneurisma no ramo segmentar basal posterior da artéria pulmonar no lobo inferior esquerdo. A tomografia computadorizada permite o diagnóstico, localização e caracterização do pseudoaneurisma, bem como fornece informações importantes para o planeamento terapêutico. Sem tratamento, os pseudoaneurismas podem aumentar ou sofrer ruptura. Embora uma complicação rara, os pseudoaneurismas da artéria pulmonar associam-se a importante morbidade e mortalidade.

Palavras-chave

Tomografia Computadorizada Multidetectors; Falso Aneurisma; Doença Iatrogénica; Cateterismo de Swan-Ganz

ABSTRACT

Pulmonary artery pseudoaneurysms may be caused by infection, trauma, neoplasm or iatrogenic lesions, such as pulmonary artery rupture during right heart artery catheterization. Clinical presentation can range from an incidental finding to a life-threatening bleeding with massive hemoptysis. We present a case of a 67 year old woman with systemic sclerosis that developed massive hemoptysis after right heart catheterization. Computer tomography angiography showed a pulmonary artery pseudoaneurysm in the posterior basal segmental branch of the left lower lobe. Computer tomography angiography usually allows pseudoaneurysm diagnosis, localization and characterization and can aid in therapeutic procedure planning. Without treatment pseudoaneurysms may enlarge or rupture. Although a rare complication, pulmonary artery pseudoaneurysms are associated with high morbidity and mortality, and should not be missed.

Keywords

Multidetector Computed Tomography; Aneurysm, False; Hemoptysis; Iatrogenic Disease; Catheterization, Swan-Ganz.

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INTRODUÇÃO / INTRODUCTION

A pseudoaneurysm is defined as an arterial dilatation that does not comprise all of its wall layers, thus it is at a higher risk of rupture when compared to a true aneurysm. Although rare, pulmonary artery pseudoaneurysms (PAP) have high morbidity and mortality and should not be missed. PAPs can have different etiologies depending on what caused the arterial wall damage, such as infection, trauma, neoplasm or iatrogenic lesion¹. Tuberculosis, pyogenic bacteria or fungi can cause PAPs. When secondary to tuberculosis, they are called Rasmussen aneurysms, usually found in the upper lobes. Mycotic aneurysms and pyogenic bacteria PAPs are more frequently diagnosed in intravenous drug users and are associated with endocarditis and septic embolization. Penetrating thoracic injuries, such as stab or gunshot wounds, are the most common traumatic cause PAP². Pulmonary neoplastic lesions, either primary or more rarely secondary, can erode an arterial wall leading to a PAP formation. Iatrogenic lesions are the most frequent cause of PAPs and include right heart and pulmonary artery catheterization, chest tube insertion, pulmonary biopsies and cardiothoracic surgery³. Clinical presentation of a PAP can range from an incidental finding to a life-threatening bleeding with massive hemoptysis.

CASO CLÍNICO / CLINICAL CASE

A 67 year old woman, with a background of systemic sclerosis (diagnosed 19 years ago) with pulmonary fibrosis, cardiac insufficiency and gastrointestinal involvement, and open-heart aortic biologic valve replacement to treat aortic stenosis in 2014, was referred for an elective right heart catheterization due to pulmonary hypertension. During the procedure she presented with massive hemoptysis and hemodynamic instability leading to a cardiopulmonary arrest. After tracheal intubation and successful cardiopulmonary resuscitation she was admitted to an intensive care unit. Two bronchoscopic examinations were performed within 24 hours, without active bleeding visualization. Three days later she presented with a new hemoptysis episode, hemoglobin level drop and hemodynamic instability prompting an urgent thoracic computer tomography angiography (CTA) scan request. It revealed a pseudoaneurysm (Fig.1) in the left lower pulmonary lobe with 28mm diameter and an eccentric thrombus, surrounded by parenchymal consolidation. Communication with the posterior basal segmental pulmonary artery branch confirmed a pulmonary artery pseudoaneurysm, which is better depicted in maximum intensity projection sagittal oblique image (Fig.2). Some

adjacent bronchi had their lumina filled with content, presumably blood. Bilateral pleural effusion, mediastinal adenopathies and esophageal dilatation were noted. The patient evolved favorably with conservative management, and no complications or other hemoptysis episodes were reported. Four and nine days, respectively, after the first exam, other CTA scans demonstrated aneurysm stability.

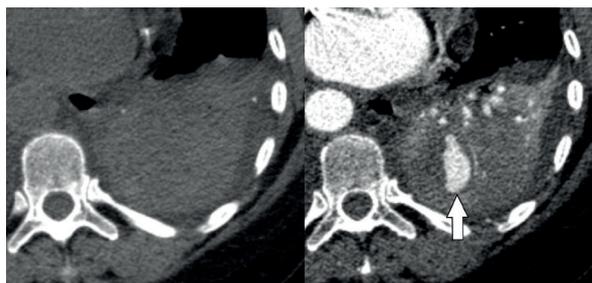


Fig. 1 Unenhanced CT scan (left image) shows left lower lobe consolidation and contrast-enhanced CT scan (right image) shows area of enhancement corresponding to pseudoaneurysm lumen (arrow).



Fig. 2 Contrast-enhanced CT maximum intensity projection in sagittal oblique plane shows communication (arrow) between the pseudoaneurysm lumen and the posterior basal segmental pulmonary artery branch in the left lower lobe.

DISCUSSÃO / DISCUSSION

Pulmonary artery rupture is a rare complication of pulmonary artery catheterization. It has been reported in 0,031% cases in a study with 32.442 patients⁴. When bleeding is limited by thrombus or surrounding parenchyma, it can lead to a PAP formation. Known risk factors include female and older (more than 60 years old) patients, steroid use and hypothermia⁵. Fibroproliferative vasculopathy and mainly microvascular abnormalities are present in systemic sclerosis⁶. However, we didn't find an association between



systemic sclerosis and pseudoaneurism formation in the literature, and to the best of our knowledge, this is the first described case of a PAP in a patient with systemic sclerosis.

CTA usually allows PAP diagnosis, localization and characterization. A pseudoaneurysm is seen as a round or oval opacity with equivalent enhancement when compared to adjacent vessels, and in continuity with an arterial branch. This helps to distinguish a PAP from pulmonary infarct or parenchymal consolidation after pulmonary artery catheterization⁷. When a patient presents with hemoptysis, urgent CTA is as accurate as bronchoscopy in detecting the site of bleeding⁸, helps to identify the underlying cause and the effects of hemorrhage on lung parenchyma. Multiplane reformatted images (Fig. 2) are also a valuable tool in exam interpretation and can aid in therapeutic procedure planning⁹. The treatment of choice is more frequently endovascular embolization as it is proven to be a safe and effective alternative to surgery¹⁰. Without treatment, PAPs may enlarge or rupture, with mortality reaching 100%¹¹. Nevertheless, small pseudoaneurysm may be successfully managed conservatively¹².

CONCLUSÃO/ CONCLUSION

Although a rare pathology, pulmonary artery pseudoaneurysms can have distinct etiologies, namely iatrogenic lesions. Computer tomography angiography is an excellent imaging modality to diagnose and characterize these lesions. Due to pulmonary artery pseudoaneurysms association with high morbidity and mortality, they should not be missed. Treatment options include conservative management and surgical procedures, however endovascular embolization is the current preferred choice.

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