

Primary Tumors of the Heart

Primary heart tumors are significantly less common than secondary tumors

Benign Tumors

Benign tumors of the heart include:

Papillary Fibroelastoma

Warty or tassel-like formation on the heart valves.

Cardiac Myxoma

In 80% of cases, it is located in the left atrium, in 15% of the cases in the right atrium. The remaining 5% are located in the left or right ventricles.^[1]

Clinical Signs

- In case of embolism: ischemia of organs supplied by the embolized artery
- In case of mitral obstruction: dyspnea, fatigue, cough, hemoptysis, pulmonary edema
- In case of tricuspid obstruction: symptoms of right-sided heart failure

Cardiac myxoma can be accompanied by a variety of non-specific symptoms

Diagnostics

- Patient's history
- Physical examination
- Echocardiography

Treatment

- Surgical removal
- Echocardiographic monitoring

Carney Complex

= ***syndrome of complex myxoma***

- This is a rare syndrome in which cardiac myxoma is associated with:
 - Multiple pigmented nevi
 - Adrenocortical hyperplasia
 - Pituitary tumors
 - Multiple fibroadenomas of breasts
 - Sertoli cell tumor
 - Skin myxoma

Rhabdomyoma

 For more information see *Rhabdomyoma*.

Malignant Tumors

Sarcomas

- ***Angiosarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma*** (*fibrosarcoma, liposarcoma, osteosarcoma*)
- It can occur at any age
- Most often in the myocardium of the right atrium
- **Clinical notes:** it can manifest as heart failure, arrhythmia, pain in the precordium, pericardial effusion, cardiac tamponade, sudden cardiac death, embolization (tumor masses, thrombi; often to the CNS), pulmonary edema, and/or syncope (when the tumor is located in left atrium); extracardiac metastases (lung, mediastinum, spine, etc.); prognosis is very poor (about 3 months of life).
- **Diagnostics:** weight loss, bloating fingers, heart failure, arrhythmia, pericardial friction murmur, diastolic murmur at the tip/regurgitation systolic murmur; mainly ECHO, CT, and MRI.
- **Treatment:** surgical removal, but in most cases it is only palliative



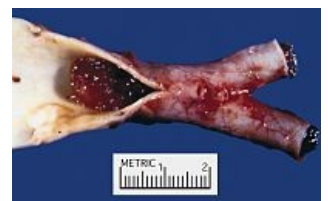
Cardiac rhabdomyoma in the right ventricle of a three-year-old girl. She was presenting with a heart murmur on the outside



Cardiac myxoma: a gelatinous tumor that almost completely fills the left atrium.



Cardiac myxoma: a 71-year-old man hospitalized for TIA; trans-esophageal echocardiography revealed cardiac myxoma in the left atrium



Embolus of cardiac myxoma in bifurcation of common iliac artery.

References

Related Pages

- Heart tumors

Citations

1. VANĚK, Ivan. *Kardiovaskulární chirurgie*. 1. edition. Praha : Karolinum, 2003. 236 pp. ISBN 8024605236.

Sources

- KLENER, P, et al. *Internal Medicine*. 3rd edition. Prague: Galén, 2006. ISBN 80-7262-430-X .
- VANĚK, Ivan. *Kardiovaskulární chirurgie*. 1. edition. Praha : Karolinum, 2003. 236 pp. ISBN 8024605236.