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Late diagnosis and treatment: Blunt traumatic rupture of the aortic root

Hrvoje Gasparovic, Jadranka Separovic Hanzevacki, Ranka Stern-Padovan, Bojan

Biocina

Departments of Cardiac Surgery, Cardiology and Radiology, School of Medicine,
University of Zagreb, Croatia

Correspondence:

Hrvoje Gasparovic, M.D., PhD, FETCS

Department of Cardiac Surgery

University Hospital Rebro Zagreb

Kispaticeva 12

10 000 Zagreb

Croatia

Tel: xx385-1-236-7517

Fax: xx385-1-236-7531

E-mail: HGASPAROVIC@GMAIL.COM

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A 48-year-old man was referred for, an initially unrecognized, contained aortic root rupture three months after a vehicular accident. Echocardiography showed aortic insufficiency secondary to noncoronary cusp prolapse (Fig. 1). Computed tomography demonstrated an aortic root injury (Fig. 2A), which was confirmed intraoperatively (Fig. 2B). He underwent aortic root replacement.

Figure 1. (A) Transesophageal echocardiogram demonstrated a pseudoaneurysm of the aortic root (arrows). (B) Prolapse of the noncoronary cusp was identified which resulted in massive aortic insufficiency (arrow)

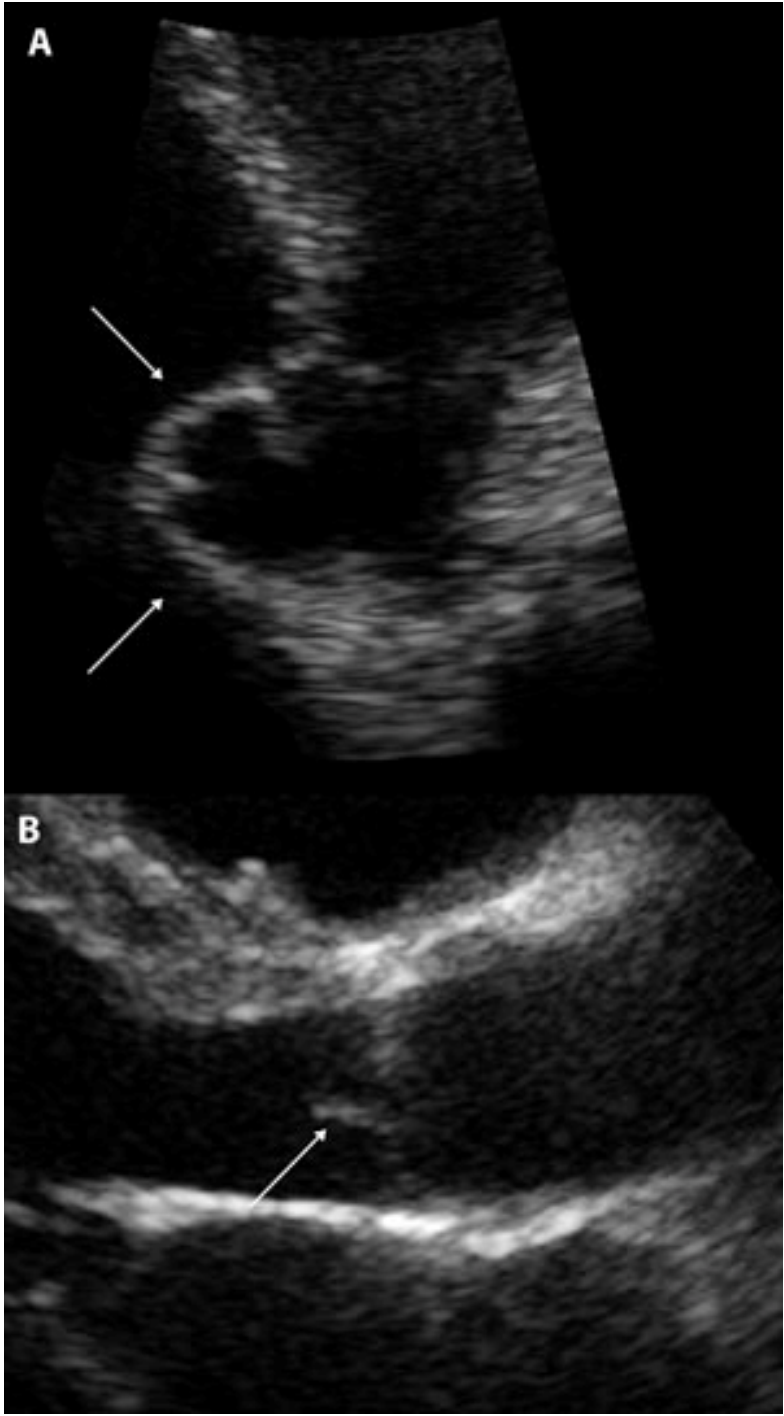


Figure 2. (A) Three-dimensional reconstruction of contrast enhanced chest computed tomography showed a contrast filled cavity communicating with the aortic root (arrows). (B) Intraoperative photograph of the aortic root illustrating a wide orifice of the traumatic pseudoaneurysm (arrows).

