

Coronary Artery Occlusion after Cardiac Transplantation

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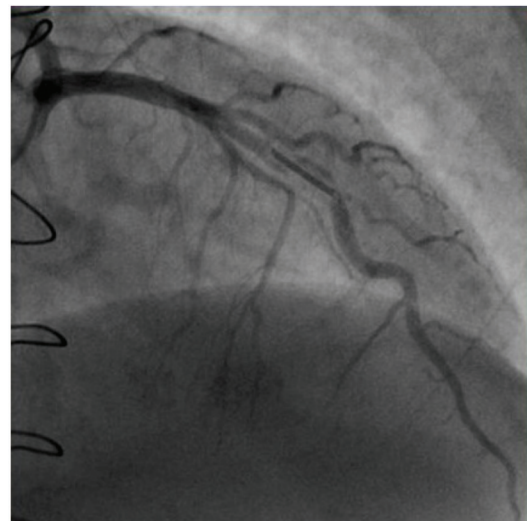
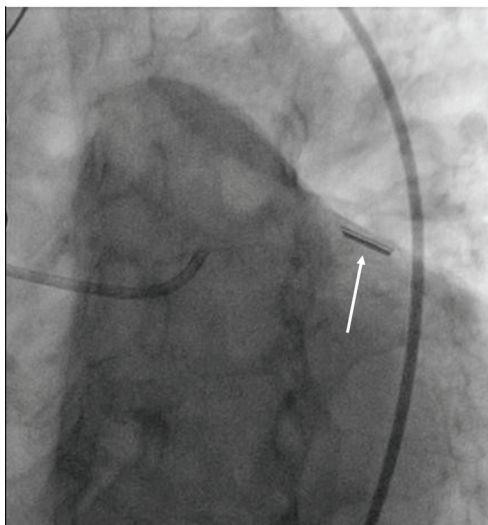
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CASE REPORT

Five months after undergoing orthotopic cardiac transplantation, a 62-year-old woman was admitted to the hospital with chest pain and shortness of breath. A well-demarcated foreign body was apparent in the chest radiograph, on the left side of the chest. An examination revealed no abnormal findings and no signs of chest trauma. An electrocardiogram and the clinical evaluation showed signs of myocardial ischemia. The cardiac angiogram showed the presence of a foreign body in the lumen of the left anterior descending coronary artery (Figure, right anterior oblique fluoroscopy views before and after injection

of contrast). The foreign body could not be removed via catheter intervention. The patient underwent surgical removal of the foreign body, and an aortocoronary bypass operation was performed. The foreign body was the tip of the patient's automatic implantable cardioverter-defibrillator electrode, which had been removed during cardiac transplantation.

This case is an example of a rare complication after cardiac transplantation, considering that the coronary obstruction in the denervated transplanted heart did not cause any clinical symptoms during the initial period after transplantation. The patient was discharged 10 days after the surgical intervention.



Right anterior oblique fluoroscopy view of the foreign body before (A, arrow) and after (B) injection of contrast.

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