

Beware of a New Heart Block: A Marker for Aortic Root Abscess

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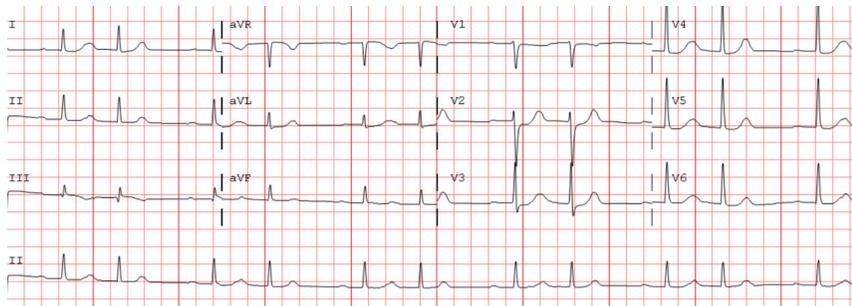


Figure 1. Electrocardiogram (ECG) showing sinus rhythm with a first degree atrioventricular (AV) block, Mobitz I second degree AV block with subtle ST segment depression in anterior leads. This is an ECG from a patient with aortic root abscess.

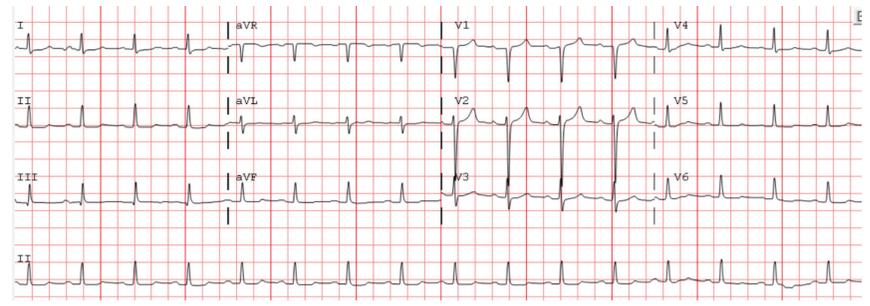


Figure 2. Baseline ECG in the same patient several months earlier, before any evidence of valvular abscess, showing normal sinus rhythm.

Figures 3-8 are transesophageal echocardiogram images showing an aortic root abscess with significant perivalvular bio-prosthetic aortic leak. A large vegetation extending from the aortic root into the left atrium measuring 1.32 cm x 2.66 cm with associated moderate to severe mitral regurgitation (MR) is visualized. The patient had a 23 mm Carpentier-Edwards bio-prosthetic aortic valve (Edwards Lifesciences) with a 1.3 cm perivalvular leak.

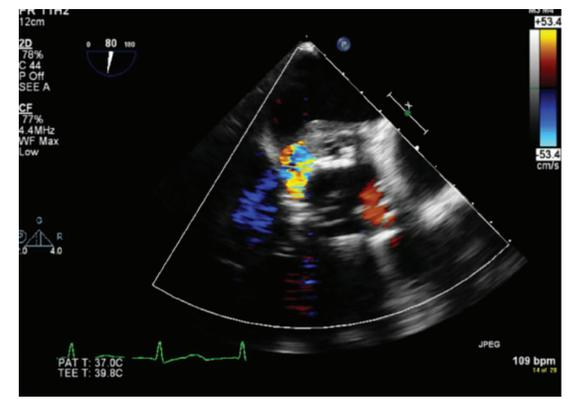
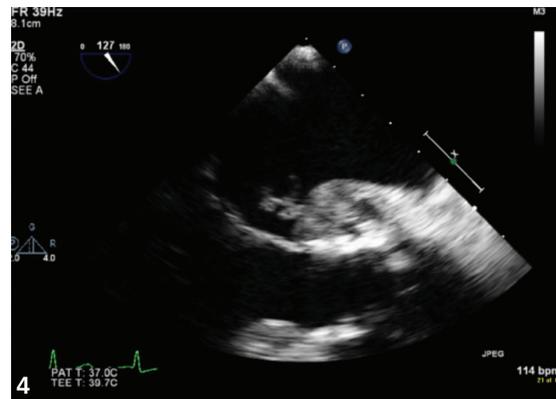
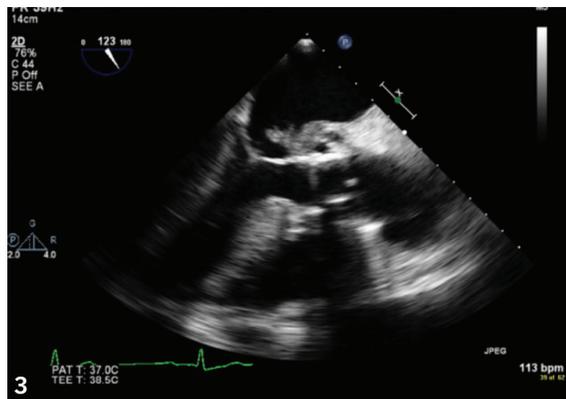


Figure 7. Perivalvular leak of aortic valve.

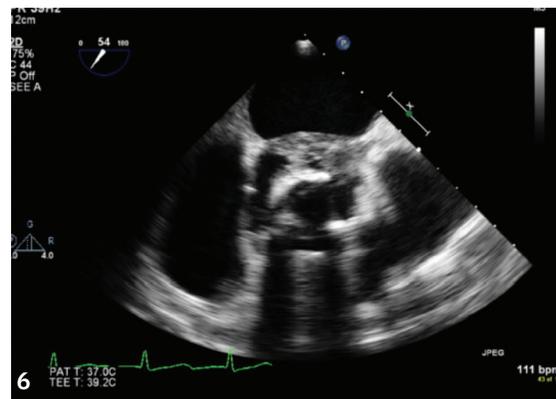
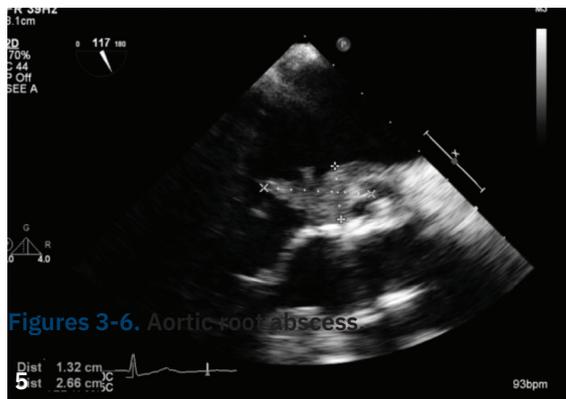


Figure 8. Perivalvular leak aortic valve and mitral valve regurgitation.

Figures 3-6. Aortic root abscess

A large vegetation extended from the aortic root into the left atrium with associated moderate to severe MR.