

An 81-Year-Old Man With an Abnormal Right-Sided Heart Shadow on Chest Radiograph

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An 81-year-old man presented with a 1-week history of dry cough. He also complained of mild dyspnea, wheezing, and low-grade fever. He denied hemoptysis, fever, rashes, or chest pain. The patient's medical history included coronary artery bypass surgery, hypertension, gastroesophageal reflux disease, and COPD. The patient was a retired welder and an ex-smoker.

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Physical Examination Findings

The patient was afebrile, and vital signs were all within normal limits. Oxygen saturation was 97% on room air. Heart examination findings were normal, with no murmurs or rubs appreciated. Pulmonary examination demonstrated few expiratory wheezes bilaterally. The patient's abdomen was nontender, with no organomegaly. There was no digital clubbing or peripheral edema. His skin was intact without nodules or rashes.

Diagnostic Studies

Results of a basic metabolic panel, liver function tests, and CBC counts with differential were all within normal limits. Chest radiography, however, revealed a localized bulge at the right-side heart border suspicious for right ventricular aneurysm (Fig 1, arrows); thus, the patient next underwent transthoracic echocardiography and contrast echocardiography. Transthoracic echocardiography indicated normal right ventricular chamber size and function but showed a 6.1 × 5.6 cm round mass external to the right atrium (Fig 2A, Video 1). Contrast echocardiography indicated that the mass was enhanced

by contrast material compatible with a vascular structure (Fig 2B, Video 2). Follow-up chest CT scan with contrast indicated a partially thrombosed (Fig 3, double arrow) vascular structure that measured approximately 6.9 × 6.7 cm.



Figure 1 – Chest radiograph showing a localized bulge at the right-side heart border (arrows).

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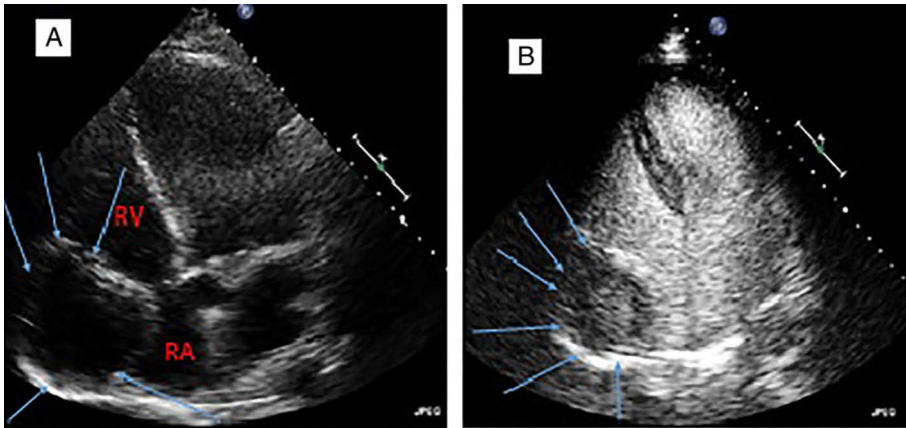


Figure 2 – A, Echocardiograph showing a mass external to the RA (arrows). B, Contrast echocardiography showing a vascular structure (arrows). RA = right atrium; RV = right ventricle.

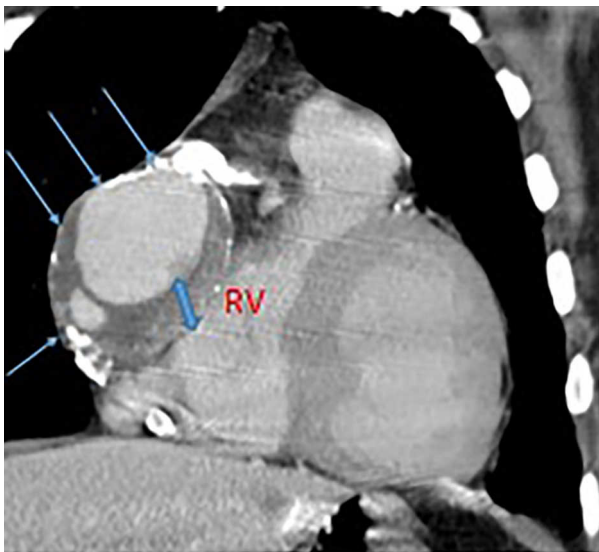


Figure 3 – Chest CT scan with contrast showing a partially thrombosed (double arrow) right coronary artery aneurysm (arrows). See Figure 2 legend for expansion of abbreviation.

What procedure should be performed next?

What is the diagnosis?

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