
Case Reports

Interesting Presentation of Aberrant Origin of the Right Subclavian Artery in an 8-Year-Old Child

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Abstract

Aberrant right subclavian artery is one of the aortic arch anomalies which is almost always asymptomatic. An 8-year-old girl presented with dysphagia of six months' duration. Physical examination revealed no abnormality. Barium swallow and CT angiography showed aberrant right subclavian artery. Numerous procedures have been proposed to treat these lesions and controversy exists concerning the best surgical technique. She was operated via the left thoracotomy approach and the aberrant right subclavian artery was divided. She had an uneventful postoperative course and was discharged symptom-free (*Iranian Heart Journal 2008; 9 (2):51-54*).

Key words: aberrant right subclavian artery ■ dysphagia ■ vascular ring ■ anomaly

An aberrant origin of the right subclavian artery (RSA) occurs in approximately 1% of the population^{1,2} and is the most common congenital anomaly of the aortic arch.³ In these patients, the aberrant right subclavian artery most frequently arises from a point distal to the left subclavian artery and passes behind the esophagus to the right arm. Rarely, it will pass between the esophagus and the trachea.⁴ Because of its proximity to the esophagus and compression from the posterior aspect, dysphagia is the most common symptom in affected patients, although it only comprises 37.5% of the presenting complaints. Other complaints include chest pain, cough and right arm discomfort.⁵ This syndrome has been commonly termed "dysphagia lusoria".

Aberrant origin of the right subclavian artery is most often asymptomatic and discovered incidentally during head, neck, or vascular surgery or noted on a routine chest roentgenogram. This aberrancy however can also produce life-threatening symptoms which can be confused with pericarditis or aortic dissection, and should be considered in the differential diagnosis of patients who present with a chief complaint of acute chest discomfort. In this report we present a patient with aberrant right subclavian artery who presented with dysphagia and was treated at our center.

Case Report

An 8-year-old girl presented with a history of difficulty in swallowing solid food for about six months.

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