Right atrial mass diagnosed during endoscopic ultrasound in a patient with intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm of the pancreas and dyspnea

A 70-year-old woman with a 10-year history of a 30-mm pancreatic cyst was referred to our center to continue follow-up. Of note, before the procedure she reported worsening dyspnea and fatigue over the last 4 months. However, no significant alterations were found on either preliminary cardiological or pneumological evaluation. Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) confirmed the multilocular cystic lesion in the pancreatic body originating from the branch ducts, with focally thickened enhanced walls and a dilation of the main pancreatic duct (6mm), as per a mixed-type intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm (IPMN) with worrisome features. While withdrawing the echoendoscope into the mediastinum, a mainly hyperechoic 70 × 50-mm inhomogeneous mass was detected in the right atrium (Video 1), with an extension towards the superior vena cava (Fig. 1). Owing to the suspicion of a cardiac mass, multimodality cardiac imaging was performed, confirming an endoluminal right atrial mass (Fig. 2), with inhomogeneous contrast enhancement, partially engaging the atrial outlet of the superior vena cava (Fig. 3). Thus, the patient underwent surgical resection of the mass.

Final diagnosis on the surgical specimen revealed an atrial myxoma. Atrial myxomas are rare tumors that may cause fatigue, syncope, shortness of breath, orthopnea, or pulmonary edema [1]. A few cases of left atrial myxoma have already been described that were found incidentally during EUS [2, 3]. Interestingly, in this case the right atrium was visible due to the presence of the mass and its extension towards the superior vena cava. It is known that the more you look, the more you see, and EUS is a powerful tool for looking at the anatomical structures and abnormalities around the gastrointestinal tract. In this case, the dyspnea prompted our curiosity to examine the cardiac morphology before turning on the light in the endoscopic room.

Carrara Silvia et al. Right atrial mass ... Endoscopy | © 2021. Thieme. All rights reserved.
Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors
Silvia Carrara1, Marco Spadaccini1,2, Matteo Colombo1,2, Vittorio Pedicini3, Lucia Torracca4, Alessandro Repici1,2
1 IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Endoscopic Unit, Department of Gastroenterology, Milan, Italy
2 Department of Biomedical Sciences, Humanitas University, Milan, Italy
3 IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Unit of Interventional Radiology, Milan, Italy
4 IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Cardiac Surgery Division, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine (A.F.L.T.), Milan, Italy

Corresponding author
Silvia Carrara, MD
IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Endoscopic Unit, Department of Gastroenterology, Via Manzoni 56, 20089 Rozzano, Milan, Italy
silvia.carrara@humanitas.it

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Endoscopy
DOI 10.1055/a-1638-9369
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2021
© 2021. Thieme. All rights reserved.
Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany

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