Simultaneous surgery is effective treatment and could be the management of choice in patients with infective endocarditis and splenic abscess

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Abstract
The treatment of patients with IE and splenic abscesses is still challenging and controversial. We present two case reports about our management of patients diagnosed with infective endocarditis and have splenic abscesses. Our experience confirms that in such a patient, heart operation combined with splenectomy can be performed simultaneously with excellent results, lifesaving, and free of complications during the same anesthesia and could be the management of choice.

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Key words: infective endocarditis, splenic abscess, simultaneous operation

Received: January 09, 2020; Accepted: January 20, 2020; Published: January 27, 2020
Heart failure and infection, we couldn’t do CT angiography. We replaced the aortic valve with bioprosthetic valve 23 and the mitral valve with 31 bioprosthetic, there was vegetation's on the posterior leaflet only, so we excised this leaflet and plicate the annulus (bicuspidisation). With my finger I checked the whole tract of coronary arteries which revealed calcified plaque on proximal LAD caused severe stenosis in the artery when checked by probe, so we put vein graft bypass Aorta to LAD after that plaque.

Case 2: Underwent successful aortic valve replacement by metallic valve 23, followed by an uneventful postoperative course.

Discussion

The order of splenectomy and valve replacement might influence the outcome. As most previous articles believe that more data are required to state the recommended order of operations [1-8] our case reports add additional evidence for successfully treating IE complicated with SA. Patients with IE complicated with SA and showed that medical treatment alone resulted in a poor outcome, while treatment with splenectomy resulted in a high survival rate [1,4]. Splenectomy is thought to be essential for eliminating the potential for prosthetic valve infection after valve replacement. There are three ways to perform the operations: to perform simultaneously in which physical stress might be considerable. To perform the splenectomy followed by valvular surgery its problems may be encountered with the development of an immune compromised condition and a tendency for bleeding. If valvular surgery has done first, there is possibility of prosthetic valve infections because of the existence of SA [2,4,6]. Successful one-stage procedures (splenectomy combined with valve replacement) have also been described in the literature and also had good results [5,6]. But there is still thinking that splenectomy should done few days before valve surgery which we want to prove that one step simultaneous surgery is safe and curable and could be management of choice. In old patients it is very important to evaluate coronary arteries but sometimes it’s difficult to do like in our unstable patient and because of Aortic valve vegetation we couldn’t do angiography also as the patient had severe AI, heart failure and uncontrolled tachycardia couldn’t achieve MCT angiography.

Adequate antibiotic treatment should accompany surgery. Antimicrobial regimens should therefore be based on individual blood cultures and perioperative cultures [4]. We sent the spleen specimen and the removed valves leaflets (Figure 1 A2,3,4,5) for pathology and for microbial culture and sensitivity and we modified the antibiotic treatments up to the results when needed (Figure 2 B3,4). The spleen may be affected either by bacteremia seeding an infarcted splenic zone or directly through seeding of the spleen by infected embolized vegetations of the heart valves [5]. Typical symptoms of SA are reported to be fever and abdominal pain and clinical findings are splenomegaly, leukocytosis, and left pleural effusion [3-5]. However, most cases present with a wide range of clinical manifestations, presumption of SA is essential to make the diagnosis in a patient with IE [3,5]. Abdominal CT scan and MRI are considered gold standard techniques for diagnosis of splenic abscess, with sensitivity and specificity varying between 90% and 95% [2,6] in our patients we did CT scan. We think that more data are required to state the recommended order of operations and could be management of choice. Our case report is clinically important as a part of evidence for successfully treating IE complicated with SA.

Conclusion

Splenectomy and valve replacement have become standard strategies as medical treatments give unsatisfactory results. However, it has not been established which of these procedures should be carried out first but, in such patients, we believe that simultaneous procedure is the effective, safe and free of complications and could be management of choice.

Disclosures

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.
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References


