



ELSEVIER

IMAGE SECTION

Mass-like appearance of a saphenous vein graft

Necla Ozer, Orcun Ciftci*, Ferhan Ozmen

Faculty of Medicine, Hacettepe University, Cardiology, Altindag Ilcesi, Ankara, Turkey

Received 4 February 2006; received in revised form 17 February 2006; accepted 13 March 2006
Available online 2 May 2006

KEYWORDS

Cardiac mass;
Coronary artery bypass
grafting;
Saphenous vein grafts;
Coronary
MRI-angiography

A 64-year-old man with a history of ischaemic heart disease and hypertension underwent coronary artery by-pass grafting operation in 1997 after an attack of inferior myocardial infarction. At his last visit a normal physical examination was noted along with an unchanged ECG. On transthoracic echocardiography, a mass-like structure was noted on the free wall of the right atrium. The mass could not be identified due to imaging quality, thus a transesophageal echocardiography was scheduled to rule out a pathologic mass. On transesophageal echocardiography, it was noted that the structure was a round cystic mass like a vessel and it was thought that it may be a saphenous vein graft to right coronary artery (Fig. 1, arrow). Cardiac MRI and MR angiography confirmed the diagnosis. This case highlights the importance of

awareness of normal cardiac structures mimicking a mass in order to avoid unnecessary and time- and-money wasting investigations.



Figure 1 Saphenous vein graft to the right coronary artery on transesophageal echocardiography.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +90 3123322049.
E-mail address: orucun@yahoo.com (O. Ciftci).