



Clinical Image

Takotsubo Syndrome with Transient Apical Ballooning

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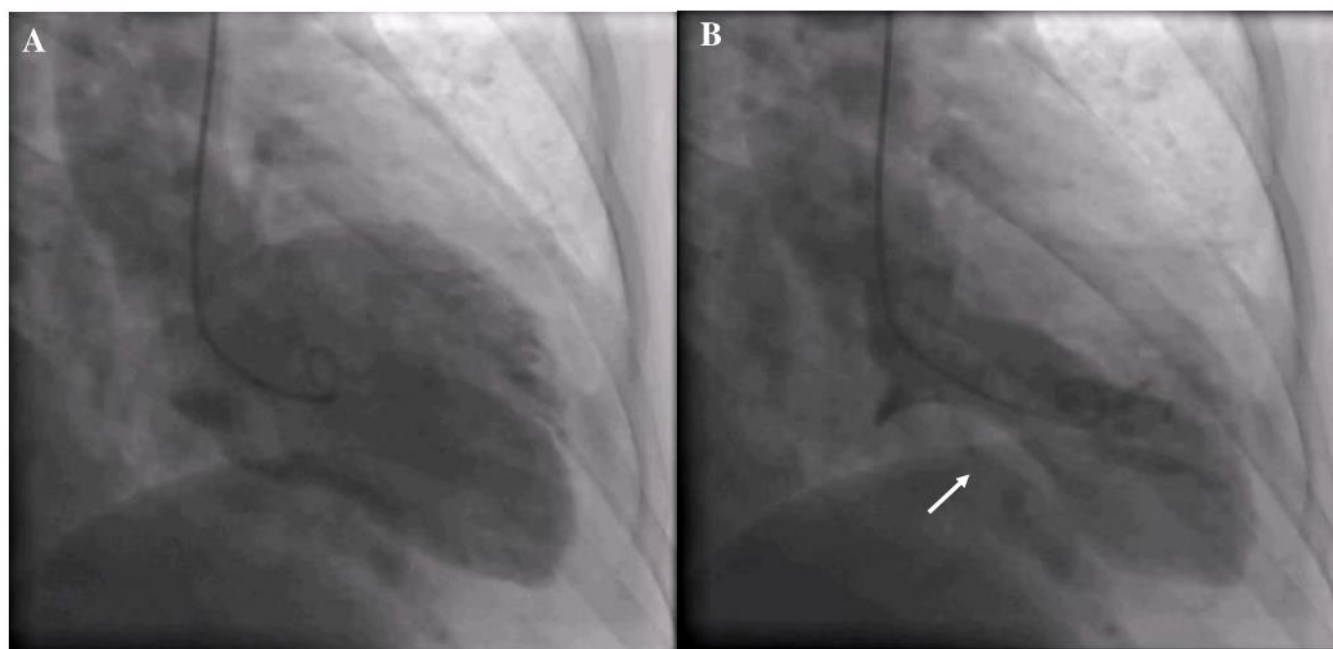
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Image Case Presentation:

A 73-year-old woman with arterial hypertension presented to the hospital with chest pain radiating to the shoulders and back, beginning the previous day, lasting 12 hours, and recurring with minimal exertion. The pain was associated with an episode of anxiety related to her son's recent job loss. On physical examination, vital signs were stable. Laboratory tests showed a troponin T of 231 ng/L. The electrocardiogram demonstrated sinus rhythm at 84 bpm, with mild ST segment elevation in V2–V4, biphasic P waves, and T wave inversion from V2 to V6. Transthoracic echocardiography revealed apical hypokinesia. Coronary angiography excluded significant coronary lesions. Left ventriculography showed contractility abnormalities of the left ventricle, with akinesia of the apex and apical segments, and a left ventricular ejection fraction of 48%, findings suggestive of Takotsubo syndrome (TS). The diagnosis was established based on the clinical presentation and imaging features (Figures 1A, 1B). Supportive treatment was initiated, and repeat echocardiography demonstrated recovery of segmental wall motion in the apical segments, with preserved global systolic function (LVEF 63%). TS is characterised by transient left ventricular dysfunction with abnormal wall motion [1] and apical ballooning [2]. It predominantly affects postmenopausal women and is usually triggered by emotional or physical stress, [1-4] mimicking an acute coronary syndrome, [2,3] which makes diagnosis challenging [1]. Coronary angiography with left ventriculography remains the gold standard, and the condition generally carries a favorable prognosis [1].



Figures: 1A) Left ventriculography during diastole showing apical ballooning of the left ventricle. 1B) Left ventriculography during systole showing apical ballooning of the left ventricle with basal segment hyperkinesia.

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Data Availability Statement: No new data were created or analyzed in this study. Data sharing is not applicable to this article.

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