Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Cardiac papillary fibroelastoma

Alexander N. Evans, Malek G. Massad*, Sanjay Gandhi, Karen Ferrer
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, The University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
Received 17 January 2002; accepted 21 February 2002

Keywords: Cardiac papillary fibroelastoma; Aortic valve

A 32-year-old man with right hemispheric stroke is presented. Transesophageal echocardiogram showed a rounded mass attached to the left coronary cusp of the aortic valve (Fig. 1A). The mass was excised under cardiopulmonary bypass. Gross examination (Fig. 1B) and light microscopy confirmed the diagnosis of cardiac papillary fibroelastoma (CPF).

Fig. 1. (A) Transesophageal echocardiogram demonstrates a 0.5×0.5 cm rounded mass attached to the left coronary cusp of the aortic valve. (B) Gross specimen demonstrates a 'Sea Urchin' pattern characteristic of CPF: a soft white polyp with a fluffy villous surface connected with a stalk to the ventricular surface of the left coronary cusp of the aortic valve.