Diagnostic image investigation of a left atrial metastasis of sarcomatoid renal cell carcinoma

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An MRI study showed a structure based at the right lower pulmonary vein, posterior LA wall and MV posterior leaflet (Figs. 1a and 2). Tumor was dislodged from the MV leaflet and LA cavity (Fig. 1b).

Sarcomatoid metastases of LA are rare, especially from primary renal cell carcinoma. Radical resection and chemotherapy of the extremely malign tumor are required.

Fig. 1. (a) Pre-operative MR image evidencing an enhanced solid tumor originating from a broad base at the posterior left atrial wall partially occluding the lower right pulmonary vein with marked reduction in the LA cavity size. (b) Post-operative MR image showing the tumor free left atrium.

Fig. 2. Intraoperative specimen. The tumor presents with numerous avascular papillary fronds covered by a single-layer endothelium.

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