
CARDIOVASCULAR FLASHLIGHT

Imaging of perimyocardial sarcoidosis during successful treatment

Stefan Buchner1*, Andreas Luchner1, Okka W. Hamer2, and Kurt Debl1
1Klinik und Poliklinik für Innere Medizin II, Universitätsklinikum Regensburg, Franz-Josef-Strauß-Allee 11, Regensburg 93042, Germany and 2Institut für Röntgendiagnostik, Universitätsklinikum Regensburg, Franz-Josef-Strauß-Allee 11, Regensburg 93042, Germany
* Corresponding author. Tel: +49 941 944 7211, Fax: +49 941 944 7213, Email: stefan.buchner@klinik.uni-regensburg.de

A 29-year-old previously healthy man presented with progressive dyspnoea and a history of recurrent arthritic symptoms.

Transthoracic echocardiography revealed a dilated left ventricle with a global hypokinesia and thickened pericardium (Panel A; see Supplementary material online, Movie SI).

Cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) showed global hypokinesia of the left and right ventricles with a predominant akinesia of the left ventricular lateral wall and marked pericardial thickening (Panel B; see Supplementary material online, Movie SII). Delayed enhancement images disclosed extensive hyperenhancement of the entire peri/epicardium and mainly in the subepicardial anterolateral myocardium (Panel C, arrows). In addition, enlarged hiliar and mediastinal lymph nodes were noted. By endobronchial lymph node biopsy, the diagnosis of sarcoidosis was made. After the medication with steroids (prednisolone 1 mg/kg body), the patient improved rapidly (Panel D; see Supplementary material online, Movie SIII). After 6 weeks, CMR follow-up showed an improvement of left ventricular function (Panel E; Movie IV) and a marked reduction of delayed enhancement (Panel F).

Supplementary material is available at European Heart Journal online.

Panel A. Transthoracic echocardiogram, apical four-chamber view, shows an impaired left ventricular function and a thickened pericardium (see Supplementary material online, Movie SI).

Panel B. Cardiovascular magnetic resonance (four-chamber view) demonstrates the distinct thickness of the epi- and pericardium, resulting in an impaired systolic and diastolic left ventricular function (see Supplementary material online, Movie SII).

Panel C. Delayed-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging reveals severe circular hyperenhancement of the entire epi/periocardium and of the subepicardial anterolateral myocardium (white arrows).

Panel D. Two weeks after steroid therapy, transthoracic echocardiography (apical four-chamber view) shows an improved left ventricular function (see Supplementary material online, Movie SIII).

Panel E. Six weeks after steroid therapy, cardiovascular magnetic resonance (four-chamber view) demonstrates a marked regression of the epi/periocardial inflammation and an improved systolic and diastolic left ventricular function (see Supplementary material online, Movie SIV).

Panel F. Six weeks after steroid therapy, areas of hyperenhancement in the epi/periocardium and the anterolateral supepericardial myocardium are considerably decreased.

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