

Right haemothorax related to the rupture of abdominal aortic aneurysm

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SUMMARY

Reported case was 63 years old forester died suddenly in the village. Autopsy examination revealed massive coagulated haemorrhage filling the right hemithorax, neither free fluid nor blood were observed in the abdominal cavity. Abdominal aortic aneurysm 20x15x15 cm in size was examined. We aimed to report the rare case of abdominal aortic aneurysm presented with transdiaphragmatic rupture and bleeding in the right hemithorax.

Keywords: haemothorax – abdominal aortic aneurysm – rupture – autopsy.

Pravostranný hemothorax z ruptury aneurysmatu abdominální aorty

SOUHRN

Úmrtnost související s rupturou aneurysmatu abdominální aorty je vysoká zejména v pokročilejším věku. Při ruptuře se častěji krev provalí do retroperitonea než do volné dutiny břišní. Prasknutí výdutě do dutiny je doprovázeno šokovými příznaky, jako je dušnost a hypotenze. Transdiaphragmatická ruptura aneurysmatu břišní aorty do dutiny pleurální je vzácně popisovaný jev.

V práci je popisováno úmrtí muže stáří 63 let, který pracoval jako lesník a náhle zemřel při manipulaci s kladami. Vzhledem k tomu, že kriminální policie označila okolnosti smrti jako nejasné, bylo nařízeno provedení pitvy. Při vnitřní prohlídce byl nalezen otok mozku i obou plicních křídel a masivní koagulovaný pravostranný hemothorax. V dutině břišní naopak nebyly známky krvácení vůbec patrné. Bylo nalezeno subdiaphragmaticky lokalizované aneurysma břišního úseku aorty velikosti 20 x 15 x 15 cm s trhlinou velikosti 2,5 cm. Dále byla nalezena tlaková atrofie obratlů Th11 a Th12. Histologicky byla na srdci zjištěna fibrosa a ostatní přidružené nálezy korespondující se zhojeným infarktem myokardu. Toxikologické vyšetření bylo kompletně negativní. Jako příčina smrti byl stanoven šok ze zakrvácení dutiny hrudní z ruptury aneurysmatu břišní aorty pronikající cestou hiatus aorticus.

Klíčová slova: hemothorax – aneurysma břišní aorty – ruptura – pitva.

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Studies have indicated that mortality is high in case of thoraco-abdominal aneurysm rupture, especially in the elderly cases with different complications (1,2). Transdiaphragmatic, intrathoracic rupture of abdominal aortic aneurysm is rarely reported entity, especially by the Japanese researchers(3,4). In this study we aimed to report and discuss the transdiaphragmatic rupture of abdominal aortic aneurysm from medicolegal point of view.

CASE REPORT

According to the criminal police investigation records forester man died suddenly during log loading procedure in the village. Death was evaluated as suspicious by prosecutor and autopsy was mandated. The deceased was 168 cm in height, 65 kg in weight, 63 years old man. External examination revealed 5x2 cm echimoses on the right shoulder, injection marks on left ante-

cubital region and 20 cm operation scar on the left lower quadrant of abdomen. During autopsy, 2600 ml coagulated blood was detected in the right hemithorax. There was no free fluid or blood in in the abdominal cavity. On gross examination brain and both lungs were edematous and congested. On the macroscopic examination of the abdominal cavity, subdiaphragmatically located 20x15x15 cm sized mass (Fig. 1), abdominal aortic aneurysm was observed. Ongoing dissection revealed 2.5 cm in diameter defect and opening area of abdominal aneurysm on the right diaphragmatic crus at the hiatus aorticus level (Fig. 2) with right haemothorax, also destruction of T11 vertebrae and corpus fracture in T12 vertebrae formed by pressure effects of aneurysm. Histological examination of the heart revealed fibrosis, findings corresponding to healed myocardial infarction. Analysis of the organ specimens revealed none of the substances screened for systematic toxicological methods. Death was reported as caused by internal bleeding and shock due to the rupture of the abdominal aortic aneurysm.

DISCUSSION

Studies on thoracoabdominal aneurysms reported high mortality rates (1,2). Transdiaphragmatic and intrathoracic rupture of abdominal aortic aneurysms are rarely reported entities, especially by the Japanese researchers (3,4). Rupture of aneu-

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