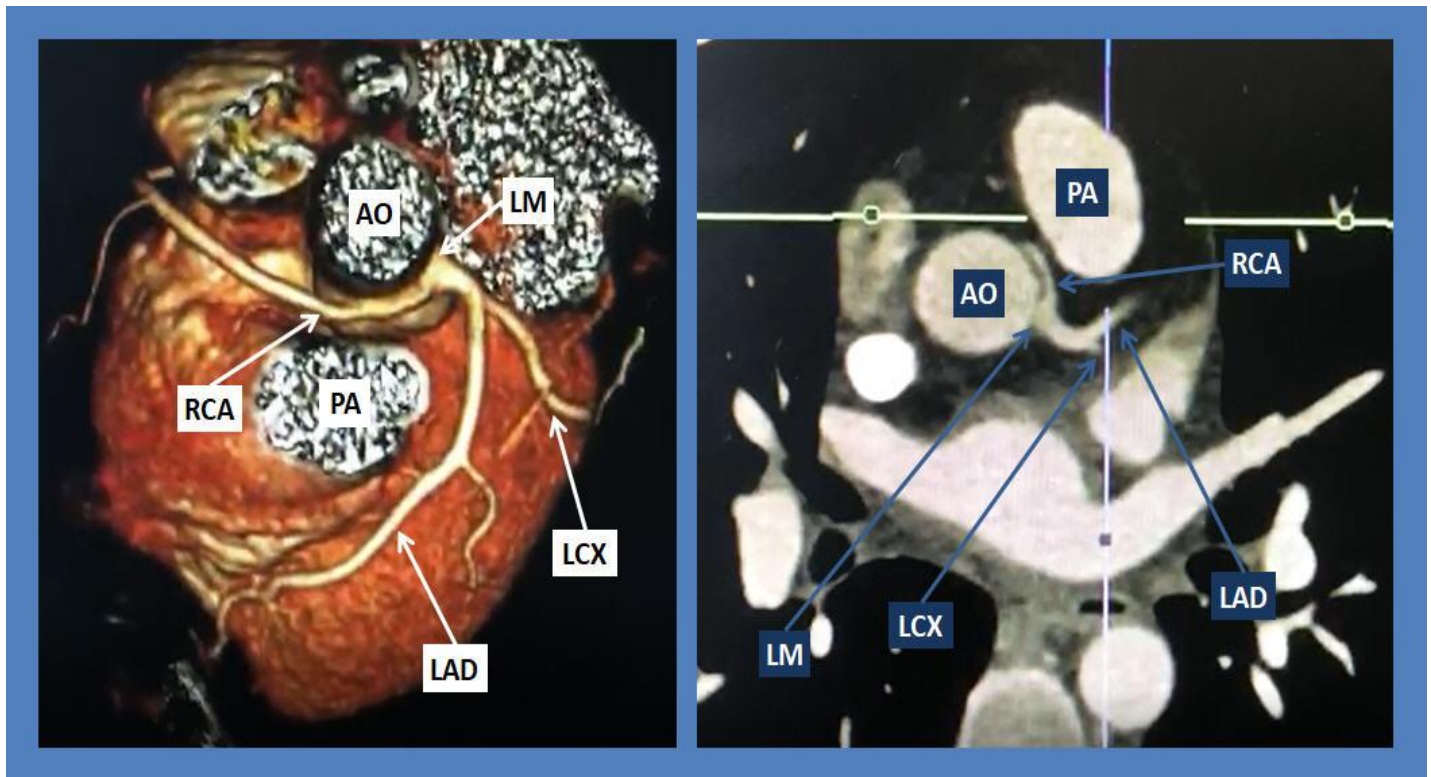


ACAOS Double Whammy.. *Single Coronary & Malignant RCA Course!*

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Description

The above volume rendered and maximum intensity projection (MIP) CT angiography images and the accompanying video clips show an anomalous origin of the right coronary artery (RCA) from the opposite sinus of Valsalva (ACAOS), a rare congenital anomaly.

The RCA originates from the ostial left main (LM) coronary artery proximal to the bifurcation of the left anterior descending (LAD) and left circumflex (LCX) coronary arteries, resulting in a rare “single coronary artery” anomaly configuration. The course of the RCA is between the major aortic (AO) and pulmonary (PA)

trunks, a malignant course which may predispose to ischemia, arrhythmia and sudden cardiac death.

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Discussion:

Coronary anomalous origin is rare with a prevalence of 0.17 % in one autopsy report [1]. The prevalence can be up to 1.2 % with coronary angiography [2] and 2.3% on multidetector coronary tomography (MDCT) coronary angiography [3]. Nearly one fifth of cases can be associated with malignant outcomes [4].

Many cases of congenital coronary anomalies are sporadic and are discovered incidentally; however a familial tendency has been reported in some cases [5]. Association with other congenital heart disease such as Holt Oram has also been reported [6] and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy [7].

Assessment of congenital coronary anomalies often requires multimodality imaging and angiography approach aiming at identifying the structural abnormality and its functional significance [8]. Management of coronary artery disease anomalies will depend on the results of such studies and may requires surgical correction in malignant cases [9].

ACAOS has been reported with a prevalence of 0.7% in the population [10], with more prevalence of an anomalous origin of the RCA from the left coronary sinus. Nearly half of the ACAOS cases showed a malignant course. Cases with a separate ostium of the RCA from the left coronary sinus have been reported [11], including in the setting of a positive stress test [12] with the RCA coursing between the major pulmonary and aortic trunks, predisposing to coronary compression and malignant outcomes. Familial clustering of ACAOS has also been reported [13]. The management of ACAOS depends on the particular anatomic and physiologic aspects of the anomaly and can vary from medical to surgical management [14].

A rarer variant of ACAOS is the origin of the RCA from the LM, as in the images presented earlier. Earlier reports of such rare anomaly have shown successful surgical treatment to relieve angina [15]. Another case report of a rare origin of the RCA from the middle of the LAD was also treated surgically [16]. These cases of a “single coronary artery” which can also arise

from the right coronary sinus [17] present both a diagnostic and management dilemma and often would require surgical intervention [18].

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