Cardiac CAT..*Where Does it Like to Hide?*

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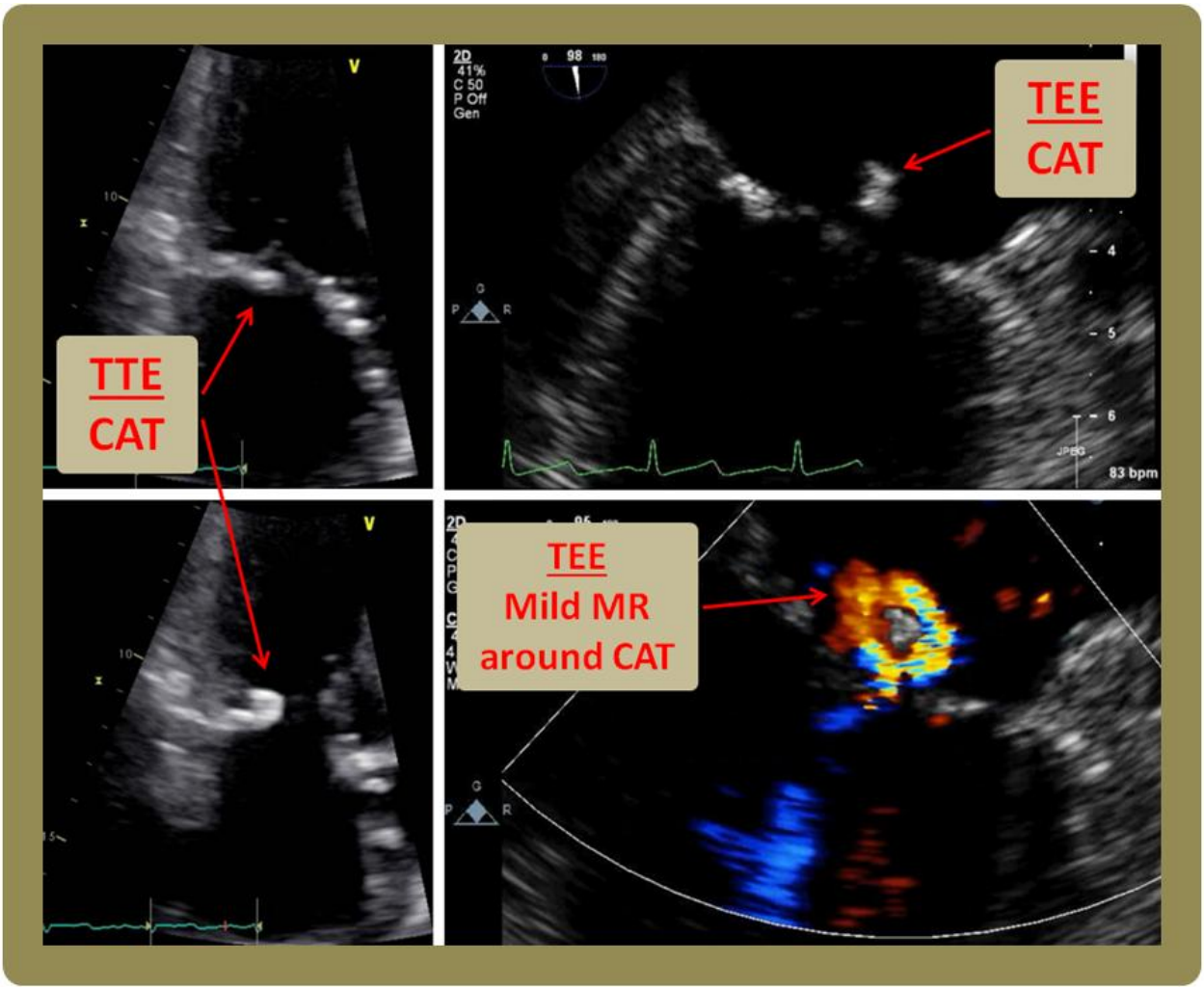

Description

Cardiac calcified amorphous tumor (CAT) is a poorly characterized nonneoplastic endocardially based intracavitary cardiac masses, first describe as such by Reynolds and colleagues [1]. It has been reported more often in patients with end-stage renal disease and on hemodialysis, likely due to ectopic calcifications [2, 3]. Cardiac CAT can be and incidental finding on an imaging study [4], but may also present with detrimental embolic manifestations [5].

Although more often they are initially diagnosed on echocardiography, multimodality imaging may provide better delineation and localization [6]. Depending on its embolization potential or disruption of valvular competency, treatment can be conservative or surgical. As in the image above, Cardiac CAT can present as a mass swinging from the mitral valve or annulus, and must be differentiated from endocarditis [7, 8].

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Although it has been reported and removed from any cardiac chamber, cardiac CAT appears to have a predilection to hiding along the mitral valve annulus, especially in dialysis patients [9]. It should, therefore, be carefully differentiated from heavy mitral annular calcifications [10].

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