Coexistence of left ventricular noncompaction and double-orifice mitral valve in a patient with congestive heart failure

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Left ventricular noncompaction (LVNC) is a rare cardiomyopathy. It usually presents with ventricular dysfunction, thromboembolic events and arrhythmias. An asymptomatic clinical course is also possible. LVNC is frequently associated with other congenital heart diseases including heart valve abnormalities. The coexistence of LVNC with double-orifice mitral valve was observed rarely. The presence of such coexistence in a patient presented with heart failure in the newborn period is reported herein because of its rarity.

Key words: noncompaction cardiomyopathy, double-orifice mitral valve, heart failure.

Left ventricular noncompaction (LVNC) is a rare cardiomyopathy in which the ventricular myocardium has a spongy appearance due to prominent trabeculations and deep intertrabecular recesses. It may be asymptomatic or present with ventricular dysfunction, thromboembolic events and arrhythmias. LVNC is frequently associated with other congenital heart diseases including heart valve abnormalities. The coexistence of LVNC with double-orifice mitral valve (DOMV) in a patient is reported herein because of its rarity.

Case Report

A male newborn was admitted to a local hospital with poor sucking, cyanosis, and respiratory distress on the second day of life. He had been diagnosed with atrial septal defect (ASD), patent ductus arteriosus, third-degree mitral regurgitation, and heart failure. He had been treated with digoxin, dopamine, and furosemide, and mechanically ventilated for four days. He had no history of perinatal asphyxia. The investigations for metabolic and infectious causes and cardiac catheterization performed to rule out any coronary anomaly had all been inconclusive.

He was referred to our institution for further investigations on the 32nd day of life. His heart and respiratory rates were 130 and 60 per minute, respectively. An apical 3/6 degree holosystolic murmur was heard. The chest X-ray revealed cardiomegaly, and the electrocardiography showed left ventricular hypertrophy. Echocardiographic examination revealed enlarged left heart chambers, trabeculations and deep intertrabecular recesses in the middle portion of the left ventricular posterior wall and apex (LVNC) (Figs. 1, 2), decreased systolic function (ejection fraction: 30%), and DOMV (Fig. 3) with moderate mitral and aortic regurgitation. The myocardial noncompacted to compacted layer thickness ratio was measured as 2.55. Serum brain

Figure 1. The two-dimensional echocardiographic appearance of left ventricular noncompaction on the parasternal short-axis view. C: Compacted layer. LV: Left ventricular cavity. NC: Noncompacted layer. T: Trabeculations.
natriuretic peptide (BNP) level was 22110 picograms per milliliter. We did not observe any arrhythmia. He was discharged in a good clinical condition after 11 days of hospitalization under the treatment of digoxin, furosemide, enalapril, and acetylsalicylic acid. LVNC was not determined in any family member by echocardiographic screening.

After two years of follow-up, he was symptom-free with anticongestive treatment. Serum BNP level was normal. Aortic regurgitation disappeared, and he had mild mitral regurgitation and near-normal systolic functions.

Discussion

Left ventricular noncompaction (LVNC) is a genetic cardiomyopathy characterized by prominent trabeculations and deep intertrabecular recesses within the ventricular myocardium. Although it may be asymptomatic, heart failure is a frequent presenting feature, as in our patient1,2.

During early embryogenesis, the ventricular wall is composed of loosely arranged myocardial fibers, which condense and later form a normal compact myocardium. It is supposed that an arrest in this process results in noncompaction of the ventricular myocardium, which has an appearance resembling initial developmental stages1,5,6. The presentation of a two-day-old patient with heart failure is consistent with a clinical course that begins antenatally and manifests itself in the early neonatal period.

Mitral leaflets are derived from endomyocardial cushions, which form the papillary muscle and chordae together with primitive trabeculations. Pathomorphologic examinations of the hearts with DOMV have shown various subvalvular apparatus anomalies. Thus, subvalvar developmental abnormality may have a pivotal role in the pathogenesis of DOMV. Abnormal endomyocardial differentiation also results in persistence of primitive trabeculations and LVNC5,7,8. The frequent association of LVNC with other cardiac malformations including DOMV necessitates searching for all those anomalies.

The coexistence of DOMV and LVNC is extremely rare. Sugiyama et al5. reported two children: one was admitted with heart failure at three years of age and the other had ASD, ventricular septal defect (VSD) and first-degree atrioventricular block. The other presented cases were of adult age5,8,10. Unlike the previously reported cases, our patient presented with heart failure at an earlier age and had a higher degree of mitral regurgitation. As the mitral regurgitation decreased with clinical improvement, the principal cause of regurgitation was thought to be the mitral annular dilatation rather than the DOMV itself.

Although it was speculated that early presentation in infancy in patients with LVNC was associated with increased risk of mortality, our patient has been doing well for two years. Neither arrhythmias nor thromboembolic events were determined2,3.

In conclusion, since developmental processes involving formation of the mitral valve and
compaction of the left ventricular myocardium may be pathogenetically related, patients with LVNC may have mitral valve abnormalities, and this should be kept in mind during the echocardiographic examination.

REFERENCES


