

Calcific Constrictive Pericarditis “Horseshoe”: Two Case Reports

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Abstract

Constrictive pericarditis (CP) is an uncommon disease. Defined as a cicatricial process leading to thickening, hardening of the pericardium which ultimately results in loss of pericardial elasticity and restriction of filling of the cardiac chambers.

Pericardial calcification (PC) is the sequelae of inflammation, fibrosis, and necrosis, which is commonly found in constrictive pericarditis, although cases with almost fully/completely calcified pericardium are very rare. Therefore, presenting cases with such a degree of calcification are of high importance to the medical community. Often pericardial calcification is an incidental

finding noted during chest imagery as such remains asymptomatic. However, during disease progression, patients develop signs and symptoms of congestion as a result of restriction to ventricular filling caused by the rigid pericardium.

Surgery provides the only effective treatment for patients with symptomatic constrictive pericarditis. We report two cases with “horseshoe” calcification successfully surgically treated in our institution.

Keywords: Pericarditis, Constrictive, Horseshoe calcification