

# Case 1: Giant Left Atrial Myxoma

## Discussion:

This case demonstrates a large left atrial cardiac myxoma, which is the most common benign tumor of the heart and is measured 6cm by 3.5cm. Most frequently this tumor is located in the left atrium (75%), but can also occur in the right atrium or in the ventricles. Rarely, multiple myxomas may be present.

Unlike fibroelastomas, which tend to originate on a valve, myxomas most commonly develop on the atrial septal fossa ovalis. Symptoms may arise from obstruction producing syncope or pulmonary congestion. Another event related to myxoma is embolism, which may cause stroke or organ infarction. Myxomas are often found as an incidental finding on an echo, which was performed for other reasons.

In the present case the left atrial tumor produced obstruction to the mitral valve causing breathlessness with exertion. Flow acceleration is seen on the atrial side of the mitral valve, confirming functional mitral stenosis. The mean gradient measured 7mmHg.

An intraoperative echo was performed and shows that after removal of the tumor there was a jet of significant residual mitral regurgitation. This was likely produced by the mechanical effect of the tumor abutting the mitral valve over a prolonged period of time and producing tissue injury. After the mitral regurgitation was identified, the patient was put back on cardiopulmonary bypass and the valve was replaced.

The patient did well postoperatively. Since myxoma does not generally recur follow-up echoes to check for tumor are not necessary.