Author's response to reviews

Title: Persistent Left Superior Vena Cava: a Case Report and Review of Literature.

Authors:

Sandeep K Goyal (sandeep.goyal@bmc.org)
Sujeeth R Punnam (punnam.msu@gmail.com)
Gita Verma (vmini_15@rediffmail.com)
Frederick L Ruberg (mehta_nhs@yahoo.co.in)

Version: 2 Date: 2 October 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors and Reviewer,

We would like to thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing our manuscript.

Dr Sicari has made useful comments on the manuscript and we have modified the manuscript to reflect those changes to best of our ability.

1. **Diagnosis should be made by saline contrast echocardiography and use of techniques involving radiation exposure (CT scan or angiography) is unnecessary for diagnosis.** We do agree with this notion and in fact, we recommended a saline contrast echocardiogram to confirm the diagnosis. Incidentally, the patient underwent a CT scan of thorax to evaluate bony and vascular injuries associated with motor vehicle accident. That CT scan revealed the Persistent left SVC as an incidental finding. We have modified our case presentation to reflect that CT scan was not performed to diagnose PLSVC, however the PLSVC was seen on CT scan as an incidental and unexpected finding. We also changed the statement “Diagnosis should be confirmed by saline contrast echocardiography or various other modalities” in abstract and conclusion to ”Diagnosis should be confirmed by saline contrast echocardiography." to better reflect the use of saline contrast echocardiography as primary modality of diagnosis.

2. **Use of better moving clips:** a) The clip showing the catheter in coronary sinus is not of very high quality, but that was the best available on the stored media. We did modify the legend for the movie to make it more self-explanatory. b) We did not perform saline contrast echocardiography because diagnosis was already confirmed by presence of catheter in coronary sinus and by visualization of PLSVC on CT. Therefore, unfortunately we will not be able to provide saline contrast images.

We hope these changes would resolve the questions and will make the manuscript suitable for publication. We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Sandeep K Goyal

Sujeeth R Punnam

Gita Verma

Frederick L Ruberg