Reviewer's report

Title: Recurrent takotsubo cardiomyopathy in the setting of transient neurological symptoms: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 16 March 2011

Reviewer: Andre Paixao

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Overall this is an interesting and very well written case report.

The recurrence of takotsubo cardiomyopathy (TC) is not common but it is a very well document occurrence. In the largest US case series it was reported to be close to 5%(1). What makes this case unique is its presentation with transient neurological symptoms without documented structural brain disease. As the authors point out, previous cases linking TC and more specifically its recurrences with neurological abnormalities included conditions with objective findings and a catecholamine surge. In this case however, attributing TC to brain disease and making any inference into the pathogenesis of apical ballooning seems a bit farfetched.

Specific comments:
In the case presentation paragraph 2 it would be helpful to include any history of emotional or physical stress before symptom onset.

In the discussion paragraph 2 include the incidence of TC recurrences in previous series. In that same paragraph I would include aborted MI as one of the theories for the etiology of TC (2,3).

References


Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests