Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pulmonary embolism causing atrial fibrillation with slow ventricular response: a case report

Authors:

Mohammad Abdulsalam (msalam87@hotmail.com)

Mohammed Elganainy (mohammednabil_eg@hotmail.com)

Ahmad Abdulsalam (dr.ahmad.j.abdulsalam@gmail.com)

Version: 3 Date: 22 Mar 2019

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We thank you for your reply. Regarding the changes that have been suggested, we present our reply in red:

Michele Brunelli, M.D., Ph.D. (Reviewer 1): This case reports of an old female with arterial hypertension and acute pulmonary embolism (PE). The authors state that exist a direct causality not only between PE and atrial fibrillation (AF), but also that under specific circumstances atrial fibrillation might be slowly conducted through the AV-node. Although the 3 postulated mechanism (see Discussion and Conclusion - please correct line 91, it is the atrio-ventricular node and not the sino-atrial node that controls atrio-ventricular association and ventricular response during AF) seems to be plausible, it is not specified the time between onset of AF with slow ventricular response and pace-maker implantation. It is conceivable that AV node capability might restore when the acute hemodynamic obstruction of the PE (also partially) resolves. Maybe a more watchful approach would have avoided the implantation of the single chamber pace-maker? Furthermore, at follow-up no data about presence (or absence) of AF and AV conduction are presented.
Reviewer #1 Reply:

1- The word sino-atrial node was replaced by atrio-ventricular node (Page 4, line 93).

2- The time between onset of AF with slow ventricular response and ventricular implantation was added to the manuscript (Page 4, line 77).

3- We agree regarding with the reviewer regarding a more watchful approach, however the patient was hemodynamically unstable which was added (page 4, line 77).

4- More details were added to the follow up data including details regarding her heart rate rhythm (page 4, line 79-82).

Marcello Di Valentino (Reviewer 2): The authors reported a case report about Pulmonary Embolism causing Atrial Fibrillation with slow ventricular response requiring a pacemaker.

This short case report is discretely well report. However in the case report the authors didn't include the images mentioned in the text. They probably forgot. Please provide for a correct revision.

I suggest to introduce in the case report the first ECG in sinus tachycardia.

Page 3, line 64 please delete doppler and replace with Doppler (is a person name).

Page 4 line 72: .....with a basal diameter of 5 mm. I think is a mistake. The authors most probably thought 5cm or 50 mm. Please provide.

In the discussion section, I suggest to spent a short comment in order to describe the McConnell's sign. For this purpose I suggest to read the paper wrote by Lopez-Candales et al in Echocardiography 2010;27:614-20.
Reviewer #2 Reply:

1- The word Doppler was capitalized (Page 3, line 64).

2- The basal diameter was edited to 50 mm (Page 4, line 72).

3- A short comment was added in the discussion describing McConnell’s sign and a reference of Lopez-Candales was added (Page 4,5, line 93-96).

We hope that it will be accepted for publication.

Thank you for your diligence.

Kind Regards,

Ahmad J Abdulsalam