

RF4. Mid-aortic Plaque Syndrome: A Description Of Four Patients

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OBJECTIVES: To describe and report 4 patients with an unusual clinical entity we label as "Mid Aortic Plaque Syndrome"

METHODS: We retrospectively reviewed records of 4 symptomatic patients treated in the last 25 years who had complete occlusion of the visceral segment of their aorta with a dense calcium "plug" like plaque in a normal sized aorta.

RESULTS: Two men and 2 women ranging in age from 18 to 78 years of age presented with symptomatic aortic occlusion. Two patients had progressive claudication with severe hypertension and acute symptoms of renal insufficiency and mesenteric ischemic. One patient presented with recurrent flash pulmonary edema and ischemic nephropathy and one was diagnosed with hypertension and absent lower extremity pulses during a high school sports physical. Three of the 4 were heavy smokers and the 18 year old had what appeared to be quiescent Takayasu's arteritis with carotid and subclavian artery non critical stenosis and wall irregularity. All patients were treated by transaortic endarterectomy of the thoracoabdominal aorta through a thoracoabdominal incision with resolution of all symptoms including claudication and hypertension and have remained asymptomatic with 2 to 5 year followup.

CONCLUSIONS: We describe an unusual clinical problem successfully treated with thoracoabdominal aortic endarterectomy.