Unusual Cause for Hoarseness of Voice

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Abstract

Hoarseness of voice due to recurrent laryngeal nerve palsy is mainly due to surgical cause or malignancy. But we are presenting a case of hoarseness of voice due to mechanical compression of a recurrent laryngeal nerve in between cardiovascular structures.

Case Report

A 24-year-old male presented with complaints of hoarseness of voice and shortness of breath for the past 2 months which was insidious in onset and progressive in nature from class 3 NYHA to class 4 NYHA. On examination the patient was obese and his BMI was 36. He was dyspnoeic and tachypnoeic at rest. JVP elevated. His blood pressure was 90/50mmHg. On auscultation, there was loud P2, Ejection systolic murmur in pulmonary area, variable narrow S2 split. Laryngoscopes were done which showed left vocal cord palsy with cord in paramedian position.

Investigation

CBC- Hemoglobin-14.5g/dl, Differential count-72/18/10,

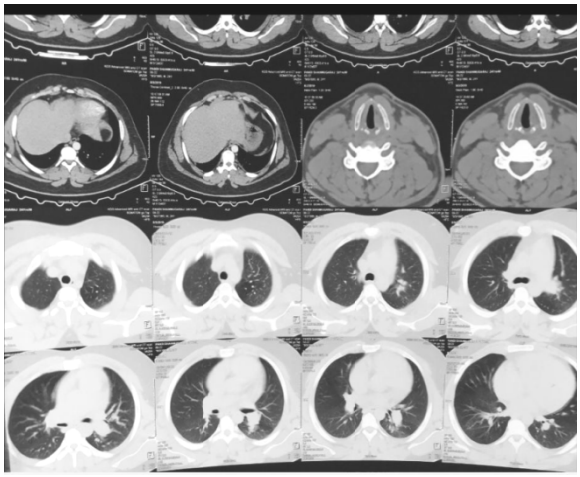
Total count - 8900cells/mm,

Random blood sugar – 96mg/dl, Blood Urea-36mg/dl, Serum Creatinine- 0.8

LFT- Total Bilirubin- 0.8, OT/PT- 22/18, ALP-62, Prothrombin time - 12.3

INR- 1.56, Activated Partial thromboplastin Time-22.8

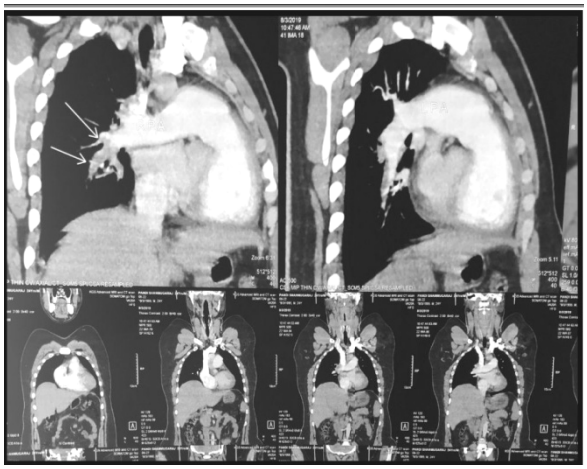
Chest x-ray - Obliterated pulmonary bay.



CT Chest and Larynx- Vocal cord in paramedian position

Computed Tomography chest and neck- Dilated Mean pulmonary artery around 6.8mm, Right pulmonary artery, And Left Pulmonary Artery.

Pulmonary infarcts in both lower lobe of the lung. Suggestive of pulmonary thromboembolism.



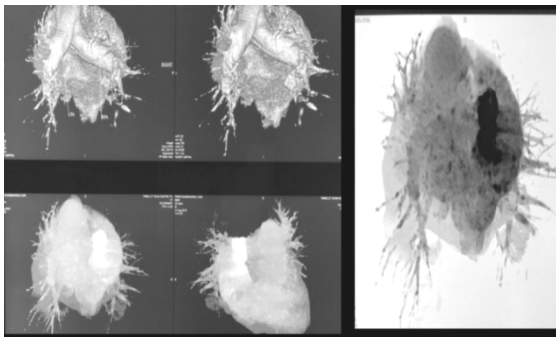
Computed Tomography pulmonary angiogram- Dilated main pulmonary artery and its branches showing occlusion with thrombus.

Echocardiogram- Severe pulmonary artery hypertension. Normal left ventricular systolic function.

Discussion

Mechanical compression of left recurrent laryngeal nerve due to enlarged cardiovascular structures is called Ortner syndrome (1,3). Congenital heart disease mainly MITRAL STENOSIS has presented as Ortner syndrome due to enlarged left atrium compressing the nerve. It has also been described with ventricular or aortic aneurysms.(2) Pulmonary thrombus causing compression of the recurrent laryngeal nerve and producing hoarseness of voice as presentation is very rare and only 3 cases have been reported so far.(4)

The patient was treated with streptokinase infusion and continued with heparin and acitrom. The further investigation done including antiphospholipid antibody and protein C and S were tested to be negative.



Repeat echocardiogram: showed moderate pulmonary artery hypertension.

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