

Coronary artery disease mimicking gastric pain

Patient information

- 63 year old male with high cholesterol.
- Complains of epigastric discomfort.
- Seen by gastroenterologist – gastroscopy showed gastritis & treated accordingly. However he did not get better.
- He then consulted a Cardiologist who did an exercise stress test that was negative for ischaemia. He was still symptomatic despite gastric medications, so his cardiologist repeated the exercise stress test which was again normal.
- When his friend who was also treated for gastric pains suddenly died from heart attack, he then wisely came to HSC Medical Centre for a more thorough assessment. An MSCT Coronary Angiogram was performed.

MSCT Coronary Angiogram Results:

Left Main: Normal
LAD: Mid-LAD subtotal occlusion
LCx: Normal
RCA: Normal

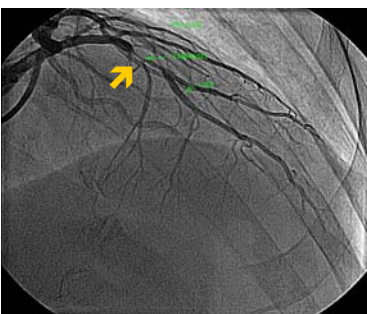
The patient was then advised to undergo a PTCA/ Stent to the mid-LAD

Findings on invasive Coronary Angiography:

Left Main: Normal
LAD: Mid-LAD 90% stenosis
LCx: Normal
RCA: Normal



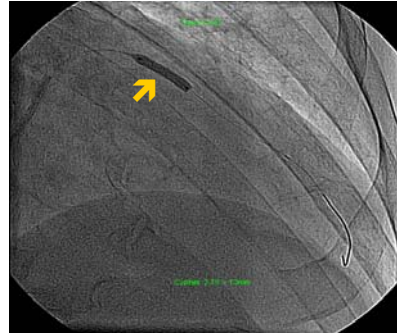
MSCT coronary angiogram showing Mid-LAD subtotal occlusion (shown by arrow)



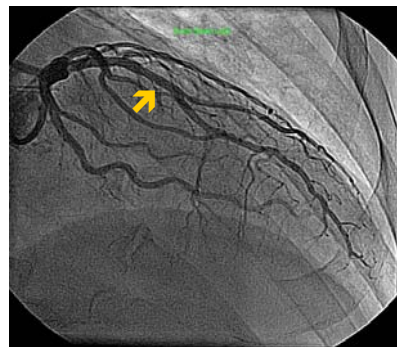
Pre-PTCA (before balloon angioplasty): Mid-LAD 90% stenosis (shown by arrow)

PTCA / Stenting Procedure

A Bravo Balloon was used to dilate the mid-LAD 90% stenosed lesion. After successful dilatation of the mid-LAD lesion, a Cypher Drug Eluting Stent was deployed across the mid-LAD lesion with good result



PTCA (balloon angioplasty) : STENT- LAD



POST-STENT (after stented): LAD fully re-opened (0% stenosis)

Teaching Points

- Coronary Artery Disease can present in many ways. Besides the more common left sided chest pain or discomfort & difficulty in breathing on exertion, it can also cause epigastric discomfort which causes it to be frequently misdiagnosed as Gastritis.
- Furthermore, it can also be seen that an exercise stress test, considered a mainstay investigation in the diagnosis of Coronary Artery Disease is in fact not completely accurate. The accuracy of the exercise stress test is approximately 60%, which means that 40% of patients with Coronary Artery Disease will actually have a normal exercise stress test.
- As can be clearly demonstrated in this particular case, the results of the MSCT Coronary Angiogram corresponded exactly with the findings of the invasive Coronary Angiogram done during PTCA/Stent insertion, thus making the MSCT Coronary Angiogram a far more reliable investigation in the diagnosis of Coronary Artery Disease.