

Incidental Left Atrial False Tendons

Falsos tendones incidentales en aurícula izquierda

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The filiform images known as left atrial false tendons (LAFTs) (1) represent fibrous or fibromuscular structures in the left atrium of unknown embryonic origin, and constitute a rare echocardiographic finding. (1, 2) They are relevant, since they can be associated with mitral regurgitation (MR), (2, 3) valve cardiomyopathies, atrial fibrillation, conduction disorders, infectious endocarditis, and they can even interfere in the manipulation of catheters during invasive procedures. (4)

We report a series of four patients with ultrasound diagnosis of LAFTs not involved in mitral valve dysfunction nor in MR mechanism. Two patients had a mobile, linear structure attached to the left atrial lateral wall and to the anterior mitral leaflet, without affecting its functioning (arrow in Figure 1). The third case presents a mobile, filiform structure attached to the atrial septum and the base of the anterior mitral leaflet. A cardiac magnetic resonance imaging confirmed LAFt, which was heterogeneous in cine sequences, and hypointense in T1 and T2 without late enhancement after gadolinium. The fourth case corresponds to a female patient who underwent transesophageal echocardiography (under follow-up due to anterior mitral valve prolapse), which revealed a hypermobile, linear structure extending from the left atrial posterior wall to the posterior mitral leaflet, without interference in the prolapse mechanism or the cause of severe MR (arrow in Figure 2).

Conflicts of interest

None declared (See authors' conflicts of interest forms on the website/ Supplementary Material).

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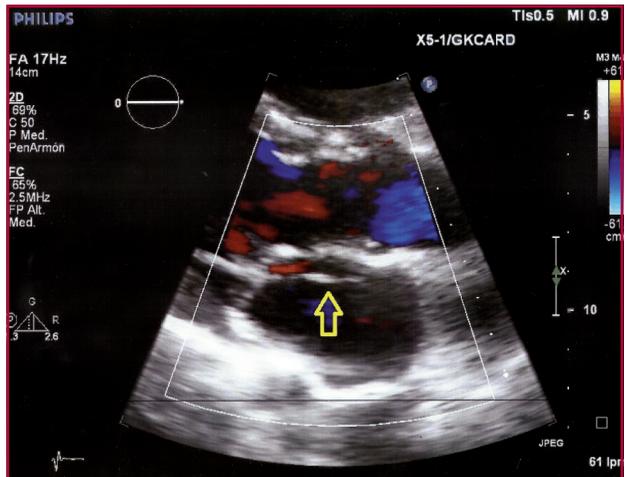


Fig. 1. Transthoracic echocardiography. Long-axis parasternal view with zoom and color-Doppler. A linear image of the left atrial false tendon is observed (arrow). No significant mitral regurgitation in color mode is recorded.

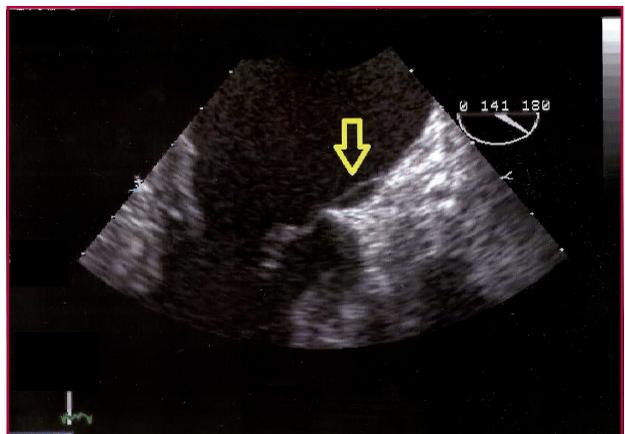


Fig. 2. Transesophageal echocardiography. View at 141°. Image of false tendon attached to the left atrial wall (arrow) is observed, with no interference in mitral leaflet function.

Complementary videos may be found in:

https://youtu.be/Z3R7Mw_B8JU

<https://youtu.be/av6V50JRYUQ>

<https://youtu.be/1DIAVUEh32o>