Papillary fibroelastoma of the aorta

Fibroélastome papillaire dans l’aorte

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An 80-year-old patient was admitted to the hospital with paraesthesia and weakness of the left limbs. The patient was suspected of having had a stroke. During the diagnostic examination, the echocardiogram showed a 2.0 × 1.8 cm roundish structure in the ascending aorta (Fig. 1). The workup for cerebral ischaemia was negative. The symptoms disappeared completely within 24 h. A cardiac magnetic resonance tomography revealed a tumour in the ascending aorta behind the aortic valve. During the operation, a tumour measuring approximately 2.0 × 2.0 cm was found at the commissure between the right and non-coronary cusps with the stalk at the noncoronary cusp. Macroscopically it had the appearance of a sea anemone (Fig. 2). Histological examination revealed a papillary fibroelastoma (Fig. 3). The patient was discharged one week after the operation in a good condition.

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Figure 1. Echocardiogram showing roundish structure in the ascending aorta.

Figure 2. Macroscopic appearance of resected tumour.

Figure 3. Light microscopy of the lesion shows avascular papillary fronds containing central eosinophilic fibroelastic stroma surrounded by paler staining myxomatous matrix, and covered by endothelial cells (hematoxylin and eosin).