

Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy: Its Various Triggers

To the Editor:

We thank Aggarwal and Krantz¹ for their article entitled “Migratory Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy in the Setting of Cholecystitis,” which was published in *The American Journal of Medicine*. The authors discussed a unique trigger that has never been reported. We recently found 2 other interesting cases of takotsubo cardiomyopathy.

The first case was a 73-year-old woman with hypertension who presented to the emergency department after an episode of choking, and subsequently developed chest discomfort. Serial electrocardiography revealed evolution of biphasic T-wave in leads V1-V2 with elevated troponin-T of 0.37 ng/mL. Cardiac catheterization was performed, which showed mid-anterior wall hypokinesis with left ventricular ejection fraction of 45% but normal coronary arteries. She was medically treated for takotsubo cardiomyopathy. Repeated echocardiogram 3 days after the procedure revealed improved ejection fraction of 55% with normalized left ventricular wall motion.

The second case was of a 45-year-old healthy man who presented with persistent chest pain that developed after an altercation with his work colleague. Initial electrocardiogram revealed J-point elevation in anterolateral leads. Given

those electrocardiographic findings along with unremitting symptoms, the patient underwent cardiac catheterization, which showed completely normal coronary arteries and severe ventricular systolic dysfunction, with only anterobasal and posterobasal contracting, compatible with takotsubo cardiomyopathy.

Takotsubo cardiomyopathy or stress-induced cardiomyopathy can be precipitated by sudden and unexpected physical or emotional stress. With increased recognition, these cases with various trigger factors have been reported.² In real practice, the clinical manifestations of takotsubo cardiomyopathy may mimic acute coronary syndrome or be misdiagnosed as other psychological conditions such as panic attack or hyperventilation syndrome. One should keep this condition in mind because its favorable outcome is likely with proper medical treatment.²

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