Coronary artery Dissection

PCI to RCA complicated by Dissection

Dr TP Singh
MD, DM
Case History

- 52 M, Non HT, Non DM, Acute IWI MI lysed within 4 hours
- D2 Coronary angiography-RCA mid 90% discrete hazy stenosis
- LAD non significant disease, LCx Normal
- Taken for PCI to RCA
• Successful PCI and stenting to RCA done with good flows
• JR 3.5 Launcher from Medtronic, soft tip guidewire
• Intracoronary NTG and Nikoran given.
• Subsequently in next shot proximal RCA was totally occluded with dissection flap.

• After 30 mins of strenuous effort entry in true lumen with change of guide cath and soft tip guidewire obtained, and subsequent films obtained.
Final result
Coronary artery dissection

- Type F dissection: represent those that lead to total occlusion of the coronary lumen without distal antegrade flow.
- Acute vessel closure is the most feared complication due to coronary artery dissection, and in the pre-stent era occurred in up to 11% of all elective PTCAVs.
- With the advent of coronary stents, the incidence of acute closure in elective PCI is now less than 1%.
- Ischemic complications in the current era usually occur as manifestations of edge dissections after stenting, which may predispose to stent thrombosis.
Classification of dissection

- **Type A dissections**: Minor radiolucent areas within the coronary lumen during contrast injection with little or no persistence of contrast after the dye has cleared.
- **Type B dissections**: Are parallel tracts or a double lumen separated by a radiolucent area during contrast injection, with minimal or no persistence after dye clearance.
- **Type C dissections**: Appear as contrast outside the coronary lumen "extraluminal cap" with persistence of contrast after dye has cleared from the lumen.

Classification of dissection

- **Type D dissections**: Represent spiral ("barber shop pole") luminal filling defects, frequently with excessive contrast staining of the dissected false lumen.

- **Type E dissections**: Appear as new, persistent filling defects within the coronary lumen.

- **Type F dissections**: Total occlusion of the coronary lumen without distal antegrade flow. In rare cases, a coronary artery dissection may propagate retrograde and involve the ascending aorta.
Risk factors for Dissection

Definite

- Left main disease
- The use of Amplatz-shaped catheters.
- Catheterization for acute myocardial infarction.

Possible

- Vigorous catheter manipulations.
- Vigorous contrast injection.
- Deep intubations of the catheter
- Variant anatomy of the coronary ostia.
- Vigorous, deep inspiration.
Prevention of catheter-induced coronary artery dissection

- Choice of guide catheter and handling techniques
- Awareness of the potential risk may aid in rapid recognition
- Appropriately sized and shaped catheters to avoid the contrast injection being directed at a plaque.
- Initial contrast injections should not be forceful until correct coaxial alignment of the catheter has been demonstrated.
- Contrast should not be injected if the pressure is damped
Management of coronary dissections

- Depend on the patency of the distal vessel and the extent of propagation of the dissection.
- Acute closure of the artery, urgent revascularization is mandated to prevent infarction.
- In the absence of acute vessel closure, if there are new ECG changes or chest pain suggesting ischemia, type A or B, conservative strategy can be adopted.
- Soft-tip wires should be used to access the true lumen, and contrast should be injected through an over-the-wire balloon to confirm the true lumen.
- If the initial attempt fails and enters the false lumen, another soft-tip wire should be carefully manipulated into the true lumen, guide may be withdrawn a bit.