

Diagnosis of Pacemaker Lead Infection Using Transoesophageal Echocardiography: A Case Report

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Abstract

Introduction: Vegetative lead infection is an uncommon complication of permanent pacemaker implantation. The diagnosis is difficult using conventional imaging methods. **Clinical Picture:** An elderly Indian woman with a history of diabetes mellitus developed *Staphylococcus aureus* infection after implementation of a permanent pacemaker. Following a non-diagnostic transthoracic echocardiogram, transoesophageal echocardiography was performed and showed a large vegetative mass attached to the pacemaker lead within the right atrium. **Treatment:** The pacemaker was removed and intravenous vancomycin administered for six weeks. **Outcome:** She was discharged well but demised two months later from a second episode of septicaemia. **Conclusions:** Pacemaker lead infection remains a challenging management problem. Transoesophageal echocardiography can facilitate its diagnosis.

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Key words: Endocarditis, Lead infection, Pacemaker, Transoesophageal echocardiography

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