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PD002

Paediatric Cardiology & Congenital Heart Disease • Poster Presentation

A GIANT ASCENDING AORTIC ANEURYSM IN A 12-YEAR-OLD FEMALE: A CASE REPORT

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Background: Ascending aortic aneurysms are uncommon, heart diseases typically associated with advancing age; in children and young adults, they are rare and predominantly linked to connective tissue disorders, such as Marfan syndrome, or congenital heart defects.

Case report: We present an incidental finding of a giant ascending aortic aneurysm with severe aortic regurgitation in a 12-year-old female. The patient initially presented to the paediatric outpatient department three years prior to index presentation with dyspnoea and palpitations on exertion but was lost to follow-up before a definitive diagnosis was established. She returned with rapidly worsening symptoms over 10 days, presenting with heart failure. She had a Marfanoid phenotype. Transthoracic Doppler echocardiography imaging revealed a significant pericardial effusion, a huge (7.8 cm) ascending aortic aneurysm, severe aortic regurgitation, and a small peri-membranous ventricular septal defect (VSD). She successfully underwent a modified Bentall procedure with a 21 mm composite On-X graft and VSD closure, with an unremarkable post-operative recovery. While valve-sparing root replacement is often advocated to avoid anticoagulation.

Conclusion:This case illustrates that advocacy should not supersede the necessity for durable surgery. In settings where out-of-pocket healthcare costs are high, prioritizing a mechanical valved conduit is essential to minimize the risk of reoperation.

Keywords: Ascending aortic aneurysm, Marfan's syndrome, Modified Bentall procedure, Paediatric cardiac surgery.