

THORAX

EDITED FOR

THE THORACIC SOCIETY

(*President* BB MILSTEIN)

BY

ANTHONY SEATON and HUGOE MATTHEWS

ASSISTANT EDITORS DB Clarke and D Seaton

EDITORIAL BOARD

RH Anderson

G Berry

DW Bethune

JM Bishop

BH Davies

PC Elmes

DJ Lane

WKC Morgan

AL Muir

JL Monro

CM Ogilvie

NB Pride

PGI Stovin

TB Stretton

Anne E Tattersfield

Margaret Turner-Warwick

JC Wagner

Editor, *British Medical Journal*

TECHNICAL EDITOR Susie Stewart

VOLUME 36 1981

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON WC1H 9JR

disease, a feature also seen in our patient. However, the most striking aspect of our case was the obstruction of the mitral and aortic valves by the profuse vegetations. This may be related to rapid growth of the vegetations despite adequate bactericidal concentrations of antibiotics.

Serial echocardiograms showed increasing vegetations related to the aortic and mitral valves. Echoes in the left ventricular outflow tract, confluent with the septum, confirmed our clinical impression of septal abscess formation causing the conduction disturbance. There are few reported cases of single valve stenosis caused by vegetations in IE.³⁻⁵ In the most recent case reported by Copeland *et al*⁵ the diagnosis, made by echocardiography, led to urgent valve replacement. Stenosis of the two valves as illustrated by our case has not previously been described.

We wish to thank Professor WA Littler for his helpful criticism and permission to report this case, and Miss AM Strong for secretarial assistance.

References

- 1 Wallace AG, Young GW, Osterhout S. Treatment of acute bacterial endocarditis by valve excision and replacement. *Circulation* 1965; **31**: 450-3.
- 2 Mohr DN, Feist DJ, Washington JA, Hermans PE. Infections due to group C streptococci in man. *Am J Med* 1979; **66**:450-6.
- 3 Roberts W, Ewy G, Glancy D, Marcus F. Valvular stenosis produced by active infective endocarditis. *Circulation* 1967; **36**:449-51.
- 4 Sachs PV, Laker JB, Barlow JB. Severe aortic stenosis produced by bacterial endocarditis. *Br Med J* 1969; **3**:97-8.
- 5 Copeland JG, Salomon NW, Stinson EB, Popp RL, Shumway NE. Acute mitral valve obstruction from infective endocarditis. *J Thoracic Cardiovasc Surg* 1979; **78**:128-30.
- 6 Ghoneim A, Cooke EM. Serious infection caused by group C streptococci. *J Clin Pathol* 1980; **33**:188-90.

A Conference on Occupational Lung Disease—Pathophysiology and Functional Impairment—will take place in Göteborg from 2-5 June 1981. For further information please write to: Congress Secretariat, SEPCR 1981, Gothenburg Convention Bureau, Kungssportsplatsen 2, S-411 10 Göteborg, Sweden.