

Titre : Spontaneous Hemothorax After Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting: A Case Report.

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Postoperative pleural effusion is a common complication following coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), whereas spontaneous hemothorax remains a rare but potentially serious condition. We report the case of a 56-year-old former heavy smoker (80 pack-years), with a history of hypertension, dyslipidemia, and ischemic heart disease, who underwent CABG 42 days prior to presentation and was referred for a large left-sided pleural effusion. The patient presented with pleuritic chest pain and dyspnea, with preserved general condition but clinical signs of pleural effusion and mild anemia (hemoglobin 9.7 g/dL). Diagnostic thoracentesis revealed a hemorrhagic pleural effusion with high protein (82.7 g/L), elevated LDH (2144 IU/L), and a pleural fluid hematocrit of 25%, with a pleural-to-blood hematocrit ratio of 83%, confirming hemothorax. Cytological analysis showed lymphocytic predominance. Thoracic CT angiography excluded pulmonary embolism and confirmed a large pleural effusion with passive atelectasis. Despite repeated thoracenteses, the clinical course was marked by loculation and organization of the hemothorax, leading to the indication for video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) decortication. Post-CABG pleural effusions are frequently left-sided and may occur early or late, with differing underlying mechanisms, including surgical trauma or immune-mediated processes. Management is usually conservative, but persistent or complicated cases may require surgical intervention. This case highlights a rare presentation of delayed postoperative hemothorax and underscores the importance of appropriate diagnosis and timely management to prevent complications such as pleural fibrosis.

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