

Effusive Constrictive Tuberculous Pericarditis —Report of a Case

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Abstract : A 62-year-old man was admitted with the chief complaint of dyspnea associated with orthopnea. In addition, cardiac tamponade and right pleural effusion were also observed. The polymerase chain reaction findings for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* were positive, and a culture of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from the pericardial fluid was positive. The bacillus was streptomycin resistant. Antituberculous drugs combined with prednisolone were administered. In addition, pericardiocenteses were also performed several times. However, the symptoms of dyspnea subsequently continued.

An echo-free space and a thick serous pericardium with frond-like structures protruding into the pericardial cavity were observed. The intracardiac right ventricular pressure curve showed a dip and plateau pattern. A preoperative diagnosis of effusive constrictive tuberculous pericarditis was thus made.

A partial pericardiectomy and epicardiotomy were thus carried out. The pathology of the excised pericardium revealed granulomatous changes with Langhans' type giant cell infiltration. The patient well tolerated surgery and has since been doing well for longer than 3 years postoperatively.

Key words : Effusive constrictive tuberculous pericarditis, Pericardiectomy, Epicardiotomy, Frond-like structures