

Aneurysm of the Left Main Coronary Artery

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The aneurysm of the common trunk of the left coronary artery is a vessel localized dilatation which exceeds 1.5 times the diameter of distal reference. Coronary artery aneurysms are very rare, with a frequency that varies between 0.25% in Asiatic population and 2.6% in Caucasian race, though most of the studies indicate an incidence of 1-2%. They are more often in the right coronary artery, followed by those of the circumflex and the anterior descending artery. Aneurysms of the common trunk of the left coronary artery are even rarer, with an incidence of 0.1%. Coronary atherosclerosis with severe stenosis in adjacent areas is the disease most frequently associated with coronary aneurysms. Other aetiologies include: Kawasaki disease, congenital, TCA, brachitherapy, arteritis, mycotic, trauma, connective tissue disease, tumoral metastasis, chronic overstimulation of nitrous oxide. The natural evolution of aneurysms is thrombosis, fistulization in one of the cardiac chambers, breakage and embolization; the last ones are the most severe events, though rare.

The images represent a case of a giant aneurysm of the common trunk of the left coronary artery in a male patient aged 60, dyslipidemic, hypertensive, carrier of chronic stable angina in functional class I-II who advanced to class IV in the last 24 hours, showing long pain, with the need of intravenous coronary vasodilators. A coronary angiography which showed aneurysm of the common trunk of the left coronary and severe lesion of the circumflex artery in its middle third has been performed. Due to the secondary complications to aneurysm, myocardial revascularization surgery with breast bridge to the anterior descending artery and venous bridge to the circumflex artery has been performed.

