学位論文の要旨

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主論文の題名

Clinical features of patients with left atrial thrombus undergoing anticoagulant therapy

主論文の要旨

Background: Left atrial (LA) thrombus was sometimes found by transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) in non-valvular atrial fibrillation (AF), even in the setting of continuous warfarin therapy. This study analyzed the clinical features of patients with LA thrombi who received anticoagulant therapy and whether the D-dimer test is useful to exclude LA thrombus. Method: Two hundred twenty-five consecutive patients with AF were enrolled. All patients received continuous warfarin therapy with the prothrombin time-international normalized ratio (PT-INR) between 1.6 and 3.0 for more than 3 months and TEE was performed. Result: LA thrombi were present in 23 and absent in 202 patients. Persistent AF (65 vs. 30%), LA diameter (44±5 vs. 40±7 mm), ejection fraction (57±13 vs. 65±9 %), BNP (203±209 vs. 105±166 pg/mL), D-dimer $(0.55\pm0.70 \text{ vs. } 0.16\pm0.20 \text{ } \mu/\text{mL}), \text{ LA appendage flow velocity } (33\pm15 \text{ vs. } 54\pm19 \text{ cm/s}),$ CHADS2 scores (2±1 vs. 1±1) were significantly different in both groups. Although multivariate analysis showed that D-dimer and LA appendage flow velocity were significant independent predictors of LA thrombus, D-dimer levels below 0.5 µg/mL were found in 19 of 23 patients with LA thrombi. Conclusion: D-dimer levels below 0.5 µg/mL is not enough to rule out LA thrombus in AF patients with well-controlled anticoagulation.