
Case Reports

A Case with Wrong Anastomosis of Left Internal Mammary Artery to Great Cardiac Vein

M. H. Nezafati MD, M. Abbasi MD and G. Soltani MD

Abstract

Visually distinguishing artery from vein during coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) can be occasionally challenging and may result in errors in anastomosis. We report an unusual case of on-pump CABG surgery in which the left internal mammary artery (LIMA) was anastomosed to an epicardial vein instead of the left anterior descending (LAD) coronary artery erroneously (*Iranian Heart Journal 2009; 10 (2):31-33*).

Key words: internal mammary artery ■ cardiac vein ■ anastomosis error ■ coronary artery bypass graft

Case report

A 72-year-old woman had been admitted to another center for a heart operation in 2003. She had a medical history of hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and smoking. On angiography, she had 3-vessel coronary artery disease. She underwent CABG using the LIMA anastomosed to what was thought to be the LAD. A great saphenous vein graft (SVG) was used to bypass the distal right coronary artery (RCA). The case was uneventful; her post-operative course was without any problem and she had remained symptom-free for two months. She subsequently presented to us with frequent exertional angina and dyspnea of several months' duration. She had a New York Heart Association Classification III (NYHA III). She was admitted to the hospital and underwent cardiac catheterization, which revealed a 100% stenosis of the LAD proximally with good run-off.

The proximal left circumflex artery (LCX) had 70% stenosis and was diminutive. The RCA was 80% stenotic at mid-portion.

Arteriography also revealed that the LIMA had been grafted to great cardiac vein and was patent, emptying into the coronary sinus (Fig. 1). The SVG to the distal RCA was patent (Fig. 2).

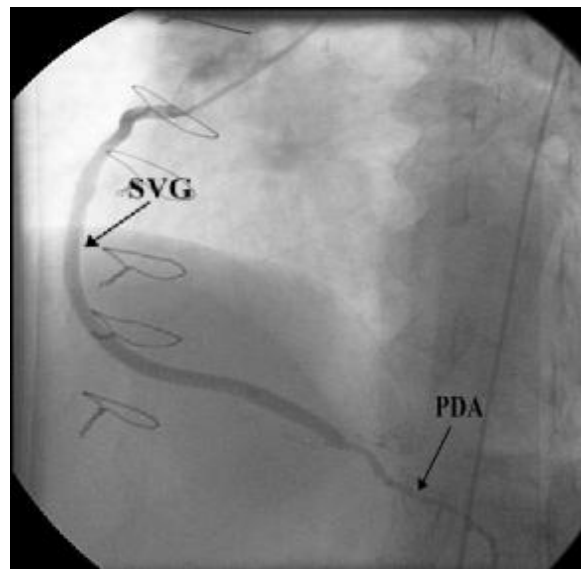


Fig. 1. Angiogram depicting patent SVG graft to the distal RCA.

Received Aug. 22, 2007; Accepted for publication May 2, 2008.

From the Cardiac Surgery Department, Imam Reza (A.S.) Hospital, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran.

Corresponding author: M. H. Nezafati, M.D., Cardiac Surgery Department, Imam Reza (A.S.) Hospital, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran. Email: nezafatimh@mums.ac.ir Tel: 0511 8525307