

A muscular bridge with an absent left main trunk: A rare coronary artery anomaly

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The appearance, prevalence, and the clinical importance of the coronary artery anomalies should be well-appreciated by the cardiologists and the cardiovascular surgeons who are engaged with the coronary artery disease.^[1] Coronary artery anomalies are seen approximately 6% of the general population.^[2]

An 84-year-old male was admitted to the emergency department with a complaint of angina pectoris. His vital signs were normal, including the blood pressure (130/65 mmHg) and the heart

rate (59 bpm). Although his troponin-I levels were within normal limits, coronary angiography was performed to exclude possible underestimation of a coronary artery disease. Although no prominent lesion in the coronary vasculature was detected, a rare anatomic variation was observed. The left coronary arteries were originating from the aorta with a separate ostium having no common left main trunk (Figure 1a, b). The course of the left coronary arteries was normal. However, there was a muscular bridge on the mid-portion of left anterior descending artery (Figure 1c, d). The origin and course of the right coronary artery were normal.

We present this case with an uncommon anatomical variation to highlight the variability of the normally functioning vascular structures. The coronary artery anomalies in which the origin is from wrong coronary sinus may have a risk of sudden death in the younger population.^[3] Therefore, this significantly and clinically important condition should be kept in mind, in cases of a coronary artery anomaly.

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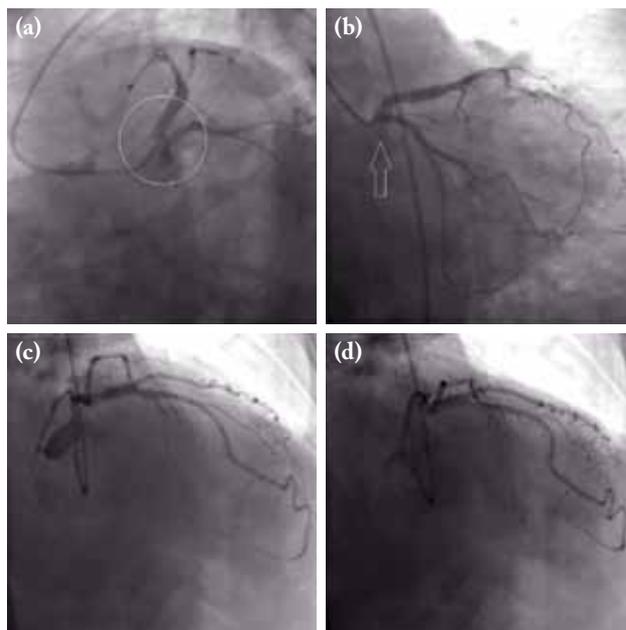


Figure 1. (a) A left anterior oblique view showing the absence of the left main trunk. (b) Arrow indicates the separate origins of the left anterior descending and the circumflex artery. (c) Left anterior descending artery in diastole. (d) Left anterior descending artery in systole (Arrow indicates the muscular bridge).

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