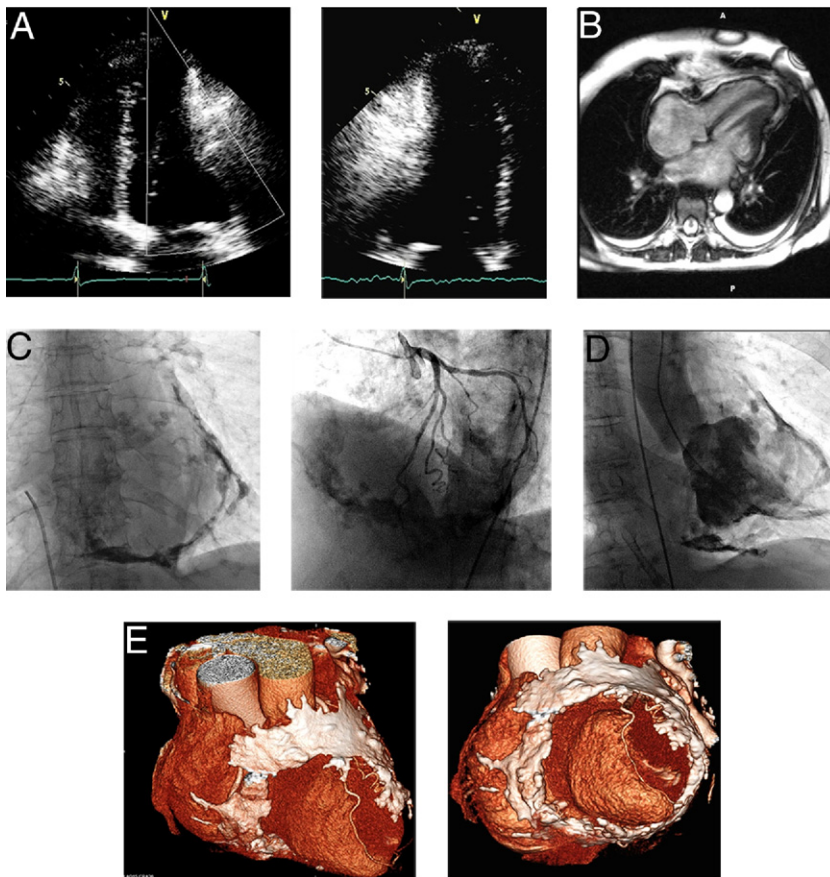


IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY

Localized Calcific Constrictive Pericarditis Masquerading as a Basal Aneurysm

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A 70-year-old woman presented with worsening dyspnea on minimal exertion and an echocardiogram notable for possible basal aneurysm (A, [Online Video 1](#)). A chest X-ray showed diffuse pericardial calcification, and a cardiac magnetic resonance imaging scan showed biatrial enlargement and a thickened pericardium compressing the mid to apical left ventricle (B, [Online Videos 2 and 3](#)). Fluoroscopy revealed a band of pericardial calcification (C, [Online Video 4](#)) and simultaneous right and left heart catheterization demonstrated equalization of pressures, respirophasic discordance of the ventricular pressure tracings, and square root sign with a steep right atrial “y” descent suggesting constrictive physiology. Ventriculography showed compression of the mid to apical left ventricle, giving an unusual appearance that could be misinterpreted as a basal aneurysm (D). Cardiac computed tomography angiography revealed severe pericardial calcification in a “belt-like” pattern around the mid-ventricle (E, [Online Video 5](#)). After a long discussion, the patient stated that she “wanted her life back” and requested surgical pericardectomy. Unfortunately, she died perioperatively. She had no history of tuberculosis or mediastinal radiation.