



CASE REPORT

Emergent TAV-in-TAV Following Acute Hemolytic Anemia Secondary to Undersized Transcatheter Heart Valve Prosthesis

Agata Sularz, MB BChir MA(Cantab.)¹, Hashrul Rashid, MBBS(Hons), PhD¹, Jane Hancock, MB ChBPhD¹, Nikolaos Papamichael, MD, PhD², Bernard Prendergast, BMBS, DM^{1,3}, Simon Redwood, MBBS, MD^{1,3} and Tiffany Patterson, MBBS, BSc, PhD^{1,3*}

¹Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, UK

²Lewisham and Greenwich Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, UK

³King's College London, UK



*Corresponding author: Tiffany Patterson, MBBS, BSc, FRCP, PhD, Honorary Senior Lecturer, Cardiovascular, King's College London, Consultant Cardiologist in Structural and Coronary Intervention, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, UK, Sec: 020-7188-1047, Tel: 07730-005637

Abstract

Paravalvular leak (PVL) driven intravascular hemolysis (IVH) is a recognized complication of surgical aortic valve replacement. This has been described less following transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAV). We present a case of a patient with severe life-threatening hemolytic anemia following TAV, requiring multiple blood transfusions, and emergent TAV-in-TAV procedure.

Keywords

TAV-in-TAV, Hemolytic anemia

Abbreviations

AR: Aortic Regurgitation; AVA: Aortic Valve Area; DAT: Direct Antiglobulin Test; IVH: Intravascular Hemolysis; MPG: Mean Pressure Gradient; NYHA: New York Heart Association; PVL: Paravalvular Leak; TAV: Transcatheter Aortic Valve; THV: Transcatheter Heart Valve; TTE: Transthoracic Echo; Vmax: Maximum Velocity

History of Presentation

A 77-year-old woman with critical aortic stenosis (Vmax 4.9 m/s, MPG 69 mmHg, AVA 0.5 cm²) (Figure 1A), moderate mitral annular calcification and mild-moderate mitral regurgitation and NYHA class III symptoms was referred for TAVI following Heart team

discussion [1]. Annular area measurements were underestimated at the time of the procedure and the patient underwent transfemoral single-access TAVI [2] with a 20 mm balloon-expandable Sapien 3 Ultra prosthesis (Edwards Lifesciences, CA) deployed under rapid pacing. Due to post-deployment asystole and hemodynamic instability requiring a 2-minute cycle of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the primary operator was disinclined to perform post-dilatation despite the appearances of moderate paravalvular aortic regurgitation (AR) on post-deployment aortogram (Figure 1E and Video 1). Post-procedure transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) confirmed moderate AR and patient was discharged with a view to early follow-up (Figure 1B, Figure 1C and Figure 1D) (Video 2 and Video 3). Within 2 weeks, she was readmitted to the local hospital with symptoms of fatigue, chest pain and NYHA class IV symptoms reporting red-brown urine discoloration. Clinical examination confirmed moderate AR.

Past Medical History

Sjogren's syndrome, hypothyroidism, blepharitis, hypercholesterolemia.



Citation: Sularz A, Rashid H, Hancock J, Papamichael N, Prendergast B, et al. (2023) Emergent TAV-in-TAV Following Acute Hemolytic Anemia Secondary to Undersized Transcatheter Heart Valve Prosthesis. Int Arch Cardiovasc Dis 7:055. doi.org/10.23937/2643-3966/1710055

Accepted: May 11, 2023; **Published:** May 13, 2023

Copyright: © 2023 Sularz A, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

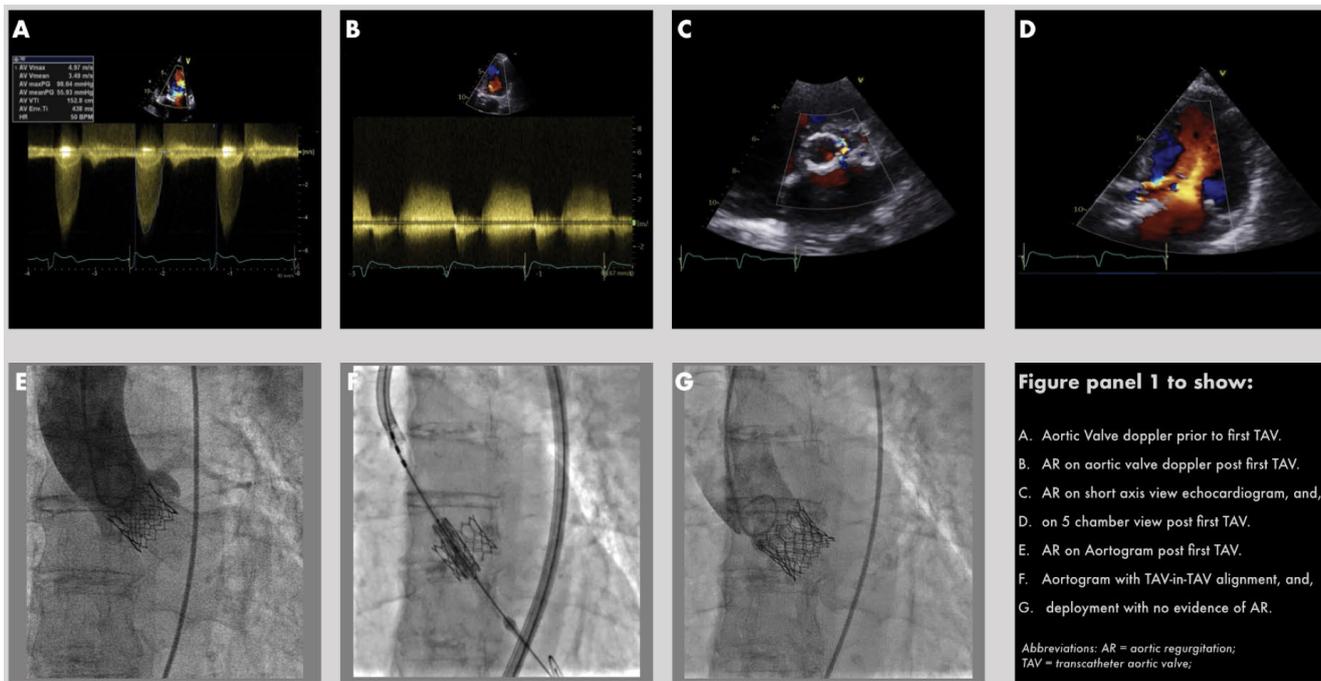


Figure 1: (A) Aortic valve doppler prior to first TAV; (B) AR on aortic valve doppler post first TAV; (C) AR on short axis view echocardiogram, and; (D) On 5 chamber view post first TAV; (E) AR on Aortogram post first TAV; (F) Aortogram with TAV-in-TAV alignment, and; (G) Deployment with no evidence of AR.

Abbreviations: AR: Aortic Regurgitation; TAV: Transcatheter Aortic Valve

Investigations

Blood film demonstrated fragmented red cells on film; and full blood count confirmed normocytic anemia (Hb 78, MCV 94); intravascular hemolysis screen was positive (Ret 135, LDH 2521, Haptoglobin < 0.1, Bilirubin 25, ALT 25, DAT negative), thus meeting criteria for TAVI-induced anemia [3].

Differential Diagnosis

- Acquired hemolytic anemia of another etiology: Drug-related etc.
- Heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

Management

The patient was rapidly transfused 4 units of packed red blood cells (Hb increase to 112) and transferred urgently to our center. Following heart team discussion and repeat CT analysis, annulus area was measured at 323 sqmm and felt to be suitable for TAV-in-TAV with a 23 mm S3 Ultra in the first instance due to significant under sizing of the initial valve. Single access right transfemoral TAV-in-TAV was performed as previously described [2]. In brief, the right common femoral artery micro puncture was performed just proximal to previous access site, with sheath exchanged to deliver 14Fr E-sheath, advanced over Amplatz super-stiff to aorta. The TAV was crossed centrally (confirmed in orthogonal views) with a pigtail catheter. The 23 mm Sapien 3 Ultra system (Edwards Lifesciences, Santa Ana, California) was aligned distally with the original

prosthesis (Video 4), to minimize conduction defects and was deployed over 45 seconds under rapid pacing to ensure valve alignment. Post TAVI aortogram and on table TTE confirmed resolution of AR, patent coronary arteries, good valve expansion with no gradient on invasive pullback (Figure 1F, Figure 1G and Video 5). 12 lead ECG remained in sinus rhythm with no change in conduction. There was an immediate resolution (within 24 hours) of symptoms of fatigue, breathlessness, and hemoglobinuria.

Discussion

Since the development of 3rd generation TAV devices with sealing skirts, the incidence of PVL has reduced dramatically, however, this less commonly seen complication post-TAV still has important consequences if left untreated. We describe a case of undersized TAV bio prosthesis resulting in profound hemolysis, this IVH was felt secondary to turbulence and shear stress was induced by high velocity moderate PVL [3-5]. In the absence of bicuspid anatomy, or significant calcification, we will advocate selection of a larger size prosthesis if the patient falls between two THV sizes.

Learning Objectives

1. Recognize IVH as a possible complication of undersized TAV.

For patients whose aortic annulus area falls between two THV sizes, consider a choice of a larger size prosthesis to reduce the risk of IVH.

References

1. Vahanian A, Beyersdorf F, Praz F, Milojevic M, Baldus S, et al. (2022) 2021 ESC/EACTS guidelines for the management of valvular heart disease: Developed by the task force for the management of valvular heart disease of the european society of cardiology (ESC) and the european association for cardio-thoracic surgery (EACTS). *Rev Esp Cardiol* 75: 524.
2. Aroney NP, Patterson T, Kalogeropoulos A, Allen CJ, Hurrell H, et al. (2022) Clinical outcomes following single access transfemoral transcatheter aortic valve implantation. *Catheter Cardiovasc Interv* 100: 227-232.
3. Širáková A, Toušek P, Bednář F, Línková H, Laboš M, et al. (2020) Intravascular haemolysis after transcatheter aortic valve implantation with self-expandable prosthesis: Incidence, severity, and impact on long-term mortality. *Eur Heart J Suppl* 22: F44-F50.
4. Ko TY, Lin MS, Lin LC, Liu YJ, Yeh CF, et al. (2018) Frequency and significance of intravascular hemolysis before and after transcatheter aortic valve implantation in patients with severe aortic stenosis. *Am J Cardiol* 121: 69-72.
5. Laflamme J, Puri R, Urena M, Laflamme L, DeLarochelière H, et al. (2015) Incidence and risk factors of hemolysis after transcatheter aortic valve implantation with a balloon-expandable valve. *Am J Cardiol* 115: 1574-1579.