

INTRODUCTION

Physicians will often rely on the presenting signs and symptoms of a patient when determining a diagnosis and the corresponding medical treatment. However, such diagnoses should always be reevaluated throughout the course of treatment, especially if the expected outcome from a certain treatment fails to occur.

CASE PRESENTATION

An 87-year-old female with a past medical history of type B aortic dissection status post bypass/TEVAR, hypertension, diastolic heart failure with moderate mitral regurgitation, and infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysm presented to the emergency room with shortness of breath.

Her pulse oximetry was 60% and she was started on 100% BiPAP. Her vitals signs were otherwise stable.

She denied any chest pain, abdominal pain, or palpitations.

Physical exam in the emergency room was positive for bibasilar crackles worse on the right, systolic murmur heard at the apex, and 1+ edema bilaterally.

LABS AND IMAGING

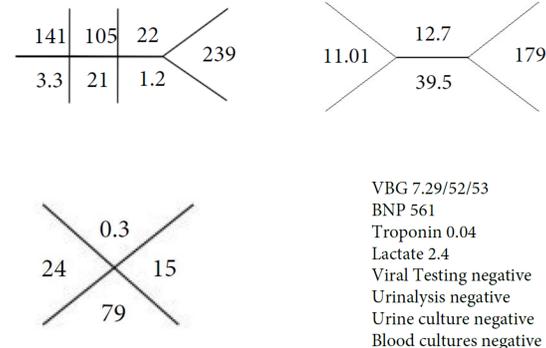


Figure 1: EKG



Figure 2: CT chest
Hospital Day 1



Figure 3: CXR
Hospital Day 1



Figure 4: CXR
Hospital Day 2



Figure 5: CXR
Hospital Day 3

MANAGEMENT

The patient was admitted and treated for multifocal pneumonia and acute on chronic diastolic heart failure.

Patient's condition worsened despite BiPAP, broad antibiotics, and IV furosemide.

A STAT echocardiogram showed a flail mitral leaflet. Patient underwent mitral clipping x2 and discharged home symptom free.

DISCUSSION

This case demonstrates the importance of correlating the patient's symptoms with the intervention. In summary, if the clinical picture does not improve with proper treatment for the presumed diagnosis, it is necessary to search for an alternate diagnosis and treatment.

Some patients with acute mitral regurgitation may present solely with new-onset dyspnea, without evidence of circulatory collapse, and therefore may be incorrectly diagnosed with noncardiogenic pulmonary disease or heart failure. The only effective treatment for mitral regurgitation is valve repair or valve replacement.