PERICARDIAL TAMPONADE IN CHRONIC PANCREATITIS – A CASE REPORT

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UEG Week Vienna 2024 | Poster

Pancreas

October 13, 2024

A case report describes pericardial tamponade as a rare but life-threatening complication of chronic pancreatitis in an 81-year-old patient requiring emergency drainage.

KEY POINTS

- An 81-year-old patient with chronic pancreatitis presented with hemodynamic instability, shortness of breath, and abdominal pain, with CT revealing pericardial effusion, bilateral pleural effusions, and intra-abdominal abscesses.
- The patient developed pericardial tamponade with arterial hypotension, tachycardia, and desaturation requiring emergency pericardial drainage, bilateral pleural drainage, and percutaneous abscess drainage.
- Hemodynamically relevant pancreatogenic pericardial effusion is rare but potentially life-threatening, and the case highlights the importance of excluding pericardial effusion in pancreatitis patients using echocardiography or other radiological methods.
- The patient was successfully stabilized following drainage procedures and discharged one month later.

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