RENAL ARTERY ANEURYSM: A NEVERLAND ENTITY?

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Abstract

Renal artery aneurysms are rare. The indication for treatment at 20mm diameter comes from studies conducted before the advent of cross-sectional imaging. We present a case of a 61years-old woman with a 23mm saccular right renal artery aneurysm under surveillance for 6 years without growing.

INTRODUCTION

Renal artery aneurysms have an estimated incidence of 0.09%.[1] The currently accepted indications for treatment are symptoms, size > 20 mm, women of childbearing age. The symptoms includes rupture, difficult to control hypertension, hematuria, flank pain and abdominal pain.[2] In the last decade some authors proposed a revision of the diameter threshold for treatment to be above 20 mm,[2-4] with only one proposing a 30mm diameter as the indication for treatment.[2]

CASE REPORT

A 61 years-old woman with one pregnancy, one adult son and hypertension under control with ibesartan presents with a 23 mm saccular right renal artery. She had an abdominal ultrasound that suggested renal artery alterations and was directed to vascular surgery consult. A magnetic resonance angiography was performed to characterize the aneurysm. Due to the location, only treatment with *ex-vivo* reconstruction was feasible. After discussing surveillance *vs* intervention, the patient opted by surveillance. After 6 years of surveillance and four magnetic resonance angiography the aneurysm remains with the same dimensions (Figure 1).

DISCUSSION

There is growing evidence that the 20 mm threshold for treatment of renal artery aneurysms is probably exaggerated.[2-4] Our patient contributes to this evidence. It appears that in some patients the renal artery aneurysms behaves as a Neverland entity, refusing to grow up.

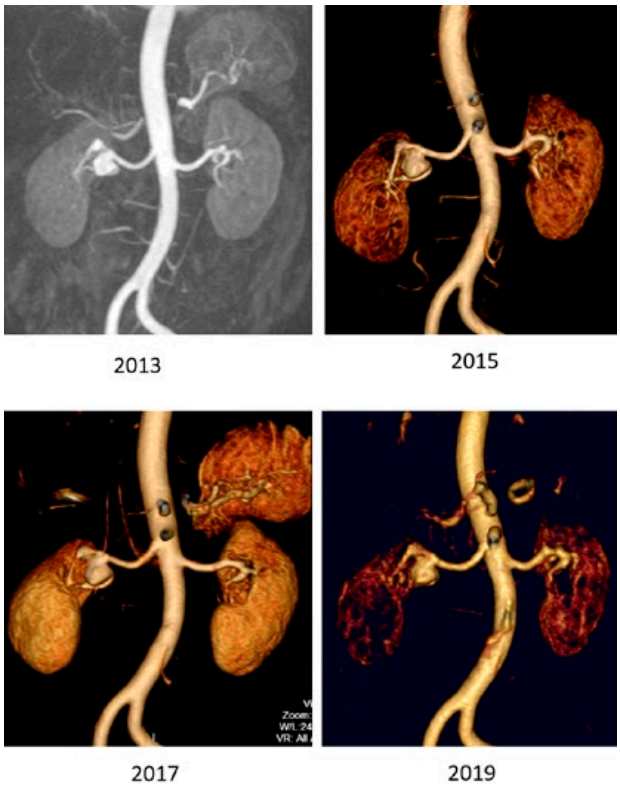

Figure 1 *Magnetic Resonance Angiography surveillance.*

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