Myocardial Tuberculosis

OP Kapoor

In the past tubercular pericarditis has been described with effusion or constrictive pericarditis, although at the autopsy, we have seen occasionally that some of these patients were having slight myocardial involvement. Tuberculosis of only the myocardium is very rare. It is interesting to know that Tuberculosis can also affect the myocardium. In 1973, we reported 9 cases of Tuberculoma of the heart in the American Heart Journal, seen by us at autopsy at JJ Hospital, Mumbai. The lesions were located in all regions of the heart and varied in size from pea to lemon size and the number of tuberculoma in a single heart varied from one to seven. The tuberculomas were seen in the right atrium, left ventricle, left atrium, left ventricle and interventricular septum. Acid fast bacilli were recovered from many of these lesions.

Although cardiac surgery has increased all over the world it is very interesting to note that no further tuberculomas of the heart were reported in last 35 years. It is possible that the diagnosis of the patients was missed, or the patients were too poor to go for surgery, or died without any autopsy being carried out.

Reference