

Infected atrial myxoma

A 58-year-old man presented with a 1-month history of persistent nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and fevers. He also reported worsening shortness of breath, lower extremity swelling, and a 4.5 kg weight loss. He was febrile and hypotensive, with pedal oedema and a soft diastolic murmur over the mitral area.

A white cell count and chest x-ray were normal. A transthoracic echocardiogram, performed to assess cardiac function, showed a large, highly mobile left atrial mass prolapsing into the left ventricle (Box, A [arrowed]).

At urgent surgery, an 8 cm left atrial myxoma arising from the interatrial septum was resected (Box, B). Histopathological examination showed dense colonies of yeast. *Histoplasma capsulatum* was grown from blood cultures and cultures of the surgical specimen (Box, C). HIV testing was negative. The patient made a full recovery after completing antifungal therapy.

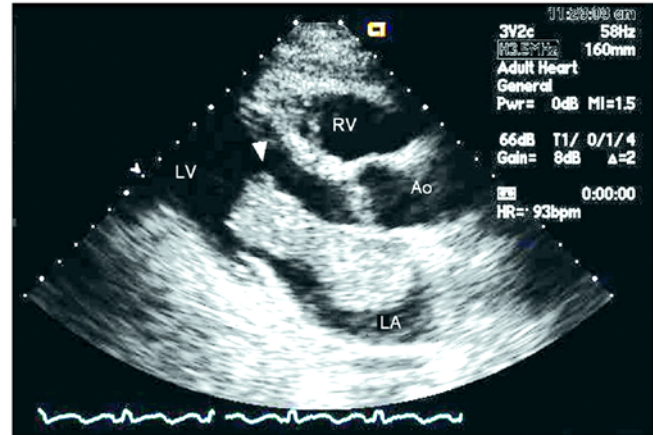
Infected left atrial myxoma is rare. We know of only one other reported case in which *Histoplasma* was the infective agent.¹

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¹ Rogers EW, Weyman AE, Noble RJ, Bruins SC. Left atrial myxoma infected with *Histoplasma capsulatum*. *Am J Med* 1978; 64: 683-690. □

A: Transthoracic echocardiogram



B: Surgical specimen



C: Microscopic view of *Histoplasma capsulatum* (Gomori methenamine silver stain)

