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**Tako-tsubo cardiomyopathy following catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation**

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Tako-tsubo cardiomyopathy is characterized by reversible left ventricular dysfunction following emotional or surgical stress. Unlike the well-known complications of catheter ablation (CA) of atrial fibrillation (AF), Tako-tsubo cardiomyopathy has been rarely reported so far. We report a case of acute reversible left heart failure following successful CA of paroxysmal AF in a patient with a history of panic disorder.

A 58-year-old female with symptomatic AF episodes despite medical therapy was admitted for CA. Her medical history was consistent with hypertension and panic disorder. She had normal left ventricular (LV) function and slightly enlarged left atrium. Biochemical tests, electrocardiogram (ECG), chest X-ray, and computed tomography (CT) scan were normal. Coronary angiography revealed normal coronary arteries. Catheter ablation procedure was performed by isolating pulmonary veins successfully without any complications. During the hospital stay, she developed progressive dyspnoea. Electrocardiogram showed sinus tachycardia and new-onset T wave inversion in precordial leads. Echocardiography excluded pericardial effusion but showed dyskinesia of the apex with normal basal segments with left ventricular ejection fraction of 35%. Computed tomography scan excluded pulmonary embolism and pulmonary vein (PV) stenosis. Left ventriculography demonstrated typical apical ballooning consistent with Tako-tsubo syndrome. Following conservative therapy for heart failure, she had a complete recovery and was discharged 3 days later with normal LV function.

In this case, acute onset reversible left ventricular dysfunction following AF ablation was due to Tako-tsubo cardiomyopathy. It is possible that the increased emotional stress as well as the damage of the autonomic plexi located in the PV antrum during CA may have triggered this situation.

The full-length version of this report can be viewed at: [http://www.escardio.org/communities/EHRA/publications/ep-case-reports/Documents/tako-tsubo cardiomyopathy.pdf](http://www.escardio.org/communities/EHRA/publications/ep-case-reports/Documents/tako-tsubo%20cardiomyopathy.pdf).

