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IMAGE FOCUS

Coexisting bicuspid pulmonary and aortic valves

Simon Deffet, Raluca Dulgheru and Patrizio Lancellotti (b)

Department of Cardiology, CHU Sart Tilman, University of Liège Hospital, GIGA Institutes, Liège, Belgium

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A 70-year-old man previously diagnosed in 2014 with a Sievers 0 bicuspid aortic valve (BAV) and an associated aortic aneurysm underwent a thorough evaluation at our Valve Clinic in CHU de Liège in 2023. A transoesophageal echocardiography (TOE) was performed in preparation for surgery. In addition to the known BAV, the TOE revealed the presence of a coexisting bicuspid pulmonary valve (BPV), as illustrated below.

BPV is a very rare congenital heart anomaly with an estimated prevalence of only 0.1% [1]. In contrast, a BAV is the most common congenital heart disease, occurring in 1–2% of the general population [2,3]. The coexistence of both BPV and BAV is exceedingly rare. In fact, among 3,681 donor hearts, only one case (0.03%) has been reported [1].

Usually, a BPV is associated with more complex congenital heart diseases, such as tetralogy of Fallot, transposition of the great vessels, or pulmonary stenosis [3,4]. Interestingly, it is worth noting that in cases where BPV and BAV coexist, a peri-membranous interventricular communication is present in approximately 75% of cases [2].

PV is likely an underdiagnosed condition, as the pulmonary valve is often challenging to visualise with transthoracic echocardiography. In most cases, BPV is discovered post-mortem or during surgery. Advanced imaging techniques, such as 3D TOE, computed tomography, or magnetic resonance imaging, are typically crucial in providing a detailed assessment of the pulmonary valve's morphology, helping to determine whether it is bicuspid, tricuspid, or quadricuspid (Figure 1) [5].

In the absence of pulmonary stenosis or significant regurgitation, clinical course of isolated BPV is usually benign and do not require any therapeutic intervention [5].

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

ORCID

Patrizio Lancellotti http://orcid.org/0000-0002-0804-8194

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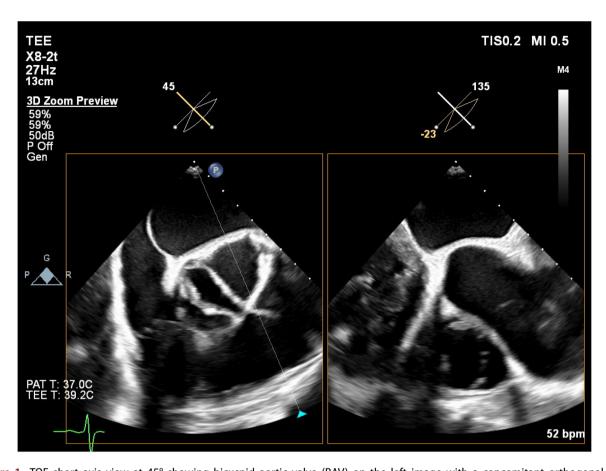


Figure 1. TOE short axis view at 45° showing bicuspid aortic valve (BAV) on the left image with a concomitant orthogonal view of the bicuspid pulmonary valve at 135° on the right image.