

## Medical Quiz Answers

A1. Well-circumscribed polypoid mass in the right atrium attached to the intra-atrial septum

A2. Tumor (primary or secondary), thrombi, vegetations or an artifact

A3. Surgical resection and intraoperative biopsy

### DISCUSSION

Tumors of the heart are not so common in everyday practice. About 75% of primary heart tumors are benign and 25% malignant. Myxomas represent about 75% of benign tumors, while rhabdomyomas and fibroids occur less frequently. Myxomas usually originate from the endocardium and most commonly from the septum (mainly in the left atrium). Although it is not known that malignant tumors spread primarily to the heart, some affect the heart more often than others, like melanomas<sup>1</sup>.

Atrial myxoma can have many manifestations through a number of mechanisms. They can cause central nervous system embolism, arrhythmias, or impair hemodynamic heart function. Among the various clinical manifestations, syncope and dyspnea are the most commonly reported symptoms, but in some cases myxomas are absolutely silent and are accidentally diagnosed<sup>2</sup>.

### CONCLUSION

**Although myxomas are the most common hearth tumors, diagnostic difficulties may occur when they are located in the**

**right atrium, which is an atypical location for their presentation. Differential diagnosis of malignant tumor (primary or secondary), thrombi, vegetation's (endocarditis) or even an artifact should be considered.**

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**Potential Conflicts of Interest:** None.

**Competing Interest:** None.

**Sponsorship:** None.

**Acceptance Date:** 10 May 2022

### REFERENCES

1. Allen Burke, Fabio Tavora. The 2015 WHO Classification of Tumors of the Heart and Pericardium. *J Thorac Oncol* 2016;11(4):441-52.
2. Nguyen T, Vaidya Y. Atrial Myxoma. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022.