

The Suspicion of COVID-19 Infection at the Expense of Diagnosing Infective Endocarditis; the Effect of the Pandemic in Diagnosing Other Infections

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ABSTRACT

Infective endocarditis is a relatively common cardiac infection with variable clinical presentations. The main symptoms of fever, dyspnea and cough can be easily confused with COVID-19 infection. Cardiac murmurs are present in 85% of patients with infective endocarditis, and a thorough physical examination is essential to aid in the diagnosis.

This case report describes the clinical history of a 65-year-old male presented with flu like symptoms and admitted to the quarantine ward due to a suspected COVID-19 infection. Prior to his hospital discharge he had a sudden deterioration and turned out to have infective endocarditis, with severe mitral regurgitation requiring an emergency mitral valve replacement surgery.

This case demonstrates the importance of considering other life-threatening infections during a global pandemic like COVID-19. A comprehensive physical examination should be thoroughly performed to avoid missing alternative serious diagnoses.

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