

All Behçet's cases with intracardiac thrombus should be evaluated for pulmonary and vascular involvement

Sirs,

We read with great interest the original article by Emmungil *et al.* (1) entitled "A rare but serious manifestation of Behçet's disease: intracardiac thrombus in 22 patients", which was recently published in your journal. In this article, the authors concluded that intracardiac thrombus (ICT) in Behçet's disease (BD) is more common in young men. The right side of the heart is usually involved and cardiac involvement is often accompanied by pulmonary artery occlusion possibly due to pulmonary arteritis. However, not all the patients were investigated for pulmonary or vascular involvement by thoracic computed tomography or lower extremity Doppler ultrasonography, respectively, in this study.

In our recently published study (2), we analysed ICT formation and other systemic involvements associated with ICT in BD.

In this comprehensive review of the relevant literature, we analysed the cumulated data about ICT in BD from 1966 to 2014. A total 93 cases of BD with ICT (group 1), four of which have been presented by us, compared for the frequency of pulmonary, venous and arterial involvements with the general Behçet population (group 2). The right heart was the most common site of ICT in group 1. Pulmonary involvement, venous involvement (especially venous thrombosis) and arterial involvement were more frequent in group 1 than in group 2 (56 vs. 0.7%, 42 vs. 10% and 38 vs. 0.8%, respectively, $p<0.0001$). On the basis of these findings, we concluded that the diagnosis of BD should be considered if a patient presents with a mass in the right-sided cardiac chambers, even in the absence of the characteristic clinical manifestations of the illness. This approach is particularly applicable if the patient is a young man from the Mediterranean basin or the Middle East. Moreover, all Behçet patients with ICT formation should be investigated with thoracic computed tomography for pulmonary and arterial involvements and lower extremity

venous Doppler ultrasonography for venous thrombosis, regardless of whether they are symptomatic for these systems.

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References

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