

## ALCAPA (ANOMALOUS LEFT CORONARY ARTERY FROM THE PULMONALY ARTERY): CLINICAL CASE

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**Introduction.** ALCAPA is a congenital heart defect in which the left coronary artery arises from the pulmonary artery. Usually this is an isolated defect, but sometimes it can be associated with other cardiological defects. If left untreated, up to 90% of patients with this syndrome die within the first year of life. ALCAPA can be diagnosed with echocardiogram. This disease is treated surgically.

**Case description.** This is a clinical case of a 5-month-old girl who was diagnosed with anomalous left coronary artery from the pulmonary artery (ALCAPA). She also had left ventricle dilatation with reduced left ventricular ejection fraction and moderate mitral valve regurgitation. She was born at 41 weeks gestation with a cesarean section. The neonatal period was normal. Girls development was good, she gained almost 1 kilogram every month. This patient was sent to a cardiology outpatient clinic by her family doctor, because of mild tachypnoea. At that time no other symptoms were noted.

The diagnosis was confirmed by echocardiogram and diagnostic coronary angiography. Echocardiography showed left coronary artery anomaly, left ventricle dilatation with reduced left ventricular ejection fraction (28%), and moderate mitral valve regurgitation. Diagnostic coronary angiography showed an enlarged right coronary artery, that had a network of collateral flow.

The patient received diuretics, aspirin, and beta blockers. In stable condition patient was operated. She underwent surgical repair of ALCAPA from the pulmonary artery by direct implantation into the aorta. Her postoperative period was uneventful.

During the next 6 months after the operation left ventricle recovered without dilatation, with normal ejection fraction, but mild residual mitral and aortic valve insufficiencies.

**Conclusion.** This case demonstrates a rare and potentially fatal disease. Early detection of ALCAPA is important because surgery that is performed at the right time is associated with a positive outcome.

**Keywords.** ALCAPA syndrome, coronary vessel anomalies.