

Diagnosis, Physiopathology and Prognosis All in One Image

Massimo Benedetto*

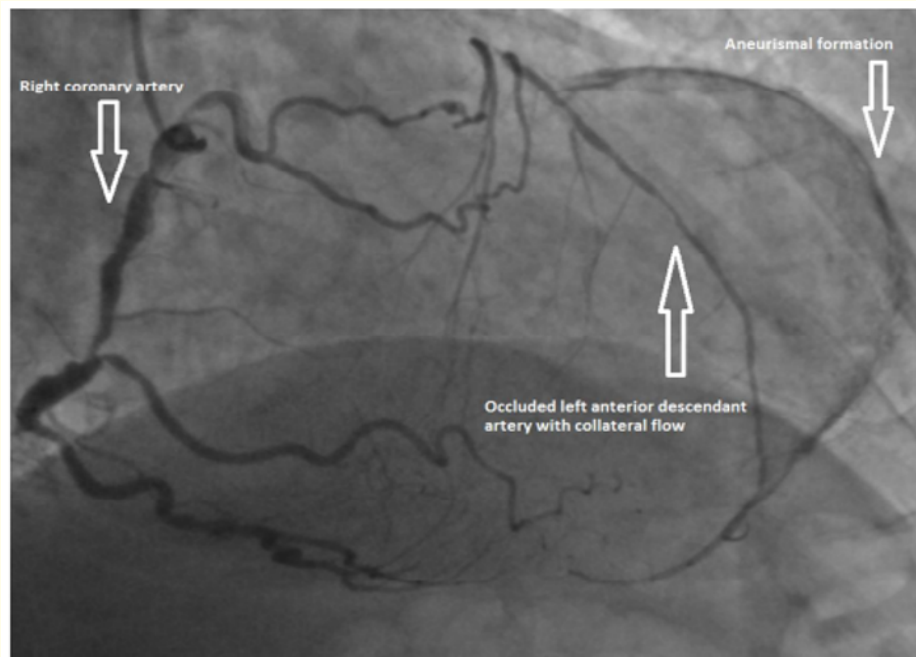
Division of Interventional Cardiology ARNAS Civico Hospital Palermo, Italy

***Corresponding Author:** Massimo Benedetto, A.R.N.A.S. Ospedale Civico Di Cristina Benfratelli, Piazza Nicola Leotta, Palermo, Italy.

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Male patient 80 years old, presenting at the ER with dyspnea and ECG with ST elevation in anterior leads. The first thing we think to regarding his diagnosis is acute anterior myocardial infarction with ST segment elevation, with dyspnea being his equivalent ischemic symptom; in this case the physiopathology is the acute closure of the left anterior descendant artery and his prognosis is not too bad considering that the onset of symptoms was 2 hours before. We therefore decide to perform an urgent coronary angiography. He undergoes coronary angiography which shows us the real reason of ST elevation in the anterior leads.

We have a total chronic occlusion of the left anterior descendant and a big aneurysmal formation of the entire anterior wall of the left ventricle. So the diagnosis, physiopathology and prognosis at this point is completely different from what we had taught. His dyspnea comes from his congestive heart failure; the physiopathology is an old acute myocardial infarction caused by the closure of the left anterior descendant artery and his prognosis is not so satisfying as we initially believed. The image is very suggestive and gives us at a glance the whole history and future of this patient; you can read in it the diagnosis (coronary artery disease), the physiopathology (myocardial infarction due to left anterior descendant occlusion with aneurysmal formation) and the poor prognosis that such a condition brings.





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