Left atrial myxoma: the blush and the shadow!

A 55-year-old woman presented to us with complaints of exertional dyspnoea and fatigue of 1 month duration. Transoesophageal echocardiography (figure 1A) showed a 12×4 cm mobile, pedunculated mass in the left atrium. During preoperative coronary angiography, the tumour was visualised as an 'oscillating blush' through a leash of small vessels, supplied by an atrial branch of the left circumflex coronary artery (figure 1B, see online supplementary movie I). Levophase of the pulmonary artery injection (using 30 ml Iopamol, 15 ml/s, 6F Pigtail) demonstrated a negative contrast, the 'shadow' of the mass in the left atrium, which prolapsed into the left ventricle during each diastole (figure 1C, see online supplementary videos 2 and 3). The mass was surgically excised. Histopathology examination confirmed the diagnosis.

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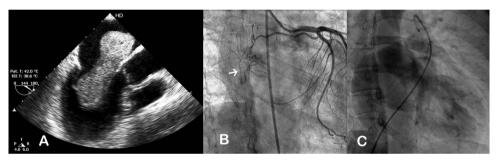


Figure 1 (A) Transoesophageal echocardiography, modified midoesophageal long-axis view shows the 12×4 cm left atrial myxoma. (B) Coronary angiography, right anterior oblique view, left coronary injection, shows 'blush' of the myxoma (white arrow), vascularising from left circumflex artery. (C) Negative contrast 'shadow' of the myxoma during levophase of pulmonary arterial contrast injection in right anterior oblique view.