Abstract

Introduction: A variety of diseases, besides the common Lev-Lenegre’s disease, can cause heart conduction system abnormalities. These include: Acute rheumatic fever, sarcoidosis, connective tissue disorders, neoplasm and bacterial endocarditis.

Objectives: The purpose of the study is to raise awareness of these rare conditions.

Patients and Methods: We present nine adult patients with various rare causes of heart block, who needed pacemaker therapy (temporary or permanent):

I. A 33-year-old female who suffered acute rheumatic fever and transient complete atrio-ventricular block (CAVB).
II. A 19-year-old soldier with a history of acute rheumatic carditis, who presented with recurrent syncope. Serial ECG recordings demonstrated inappropriate sinus bradycardia and AV dissociation.
III. A 43-year-old female suffering from Wegener granulomatosis, proven by nasal mucosa biopsy and intermittent CAVB.
IV. A 68-year-old female, with known metastatic breast cancer with pericardial involvement, presented with syncope and CAVB.
V. A 69-year-old female presented with CAVB was diagnosed as having bacterial endocarditis, with abscess formation along the conduction system.
VI. A 43-year-old male, presented with Stokes-Adams syndrome. On chest X-ray, CT and Gallium-scan, there was evidence of hilar lymphadenopathy, he was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis.
VII. A 42-year-old man presented with intermittent 2:1 AV Block. The patient had been treated with Radiotherapy to the Mediastinum for Lymphoma 25 years previously, and on a CT scan of his chest, there is evidence of heavy calcifications of the 3 coronary arteries, the root of the Aorta, Aortic valve and Mitral Annulus.
VIII. A 49-year-old male, presented with CAVB. This young patient has quadriplegia and syringomyelia, following a road accident, 11 years ago.
IX. A 43-year-old female presented with symptomatic congenital CAVB, and was treated with pacemaker therapy.

Conclusions: We suggest that patients with these disorders should be followed at regular intervals, thus allowing early detection and treatment of heart conduction disturbances.