



IMAGES IN INTENSIVE MEDICINE

An uncommon echocardiographic finding in the inferior vena cava after decannulation of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation



Un hallazgo ecocardiográfico infrecuente en la vena cava inferior tras la decanulación de la oxigenación por membrana extracorpórea

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Figure 1

A 35-year-old woman presented to the emergency department with dyspnea and chest tightness lasting for

1 day. Computed tomographic pulmonary angiography confirmed the diagnosis of acute pulmonary embolism (Fig. 1a, yellow arrow). Venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO) was implanted due to severe hypoxemia (a P/F ratio of 64 mmHg). Three days later, VV-ECMO was successfully decannulated, and an immediate ultrasound examination detected a rare morphology of ECMO-related

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thrombus in the inferior vena cava (IVC): a pedunculated, polypoid mobile thrombus floating with a heartbeat ([Video 1](#) and [Fig. 1b](#)). The IVC thrombus dissipated after a 3-week standard anticoagulant treatment ([Video 2](#)). The case indicated the necessity of routine IVC ultrasound examination after the decannulation of ECMO.

Contribution of the authors

Zhou X, Pan J, and Chen B participated in the care of the patient. Zhou X and Chen B drafted the manuscript and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no potential conflict of interest.

Consent for publication

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this article and any accompanying images.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

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