

Incidental diagnosis of a patent ductus arteriosus via computed tomography angiography in an asymptomatic adult

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A 51-year-old woman presented to the cardiology clinic with coronary artery disease. Auscultation examination of her heart revealed a grade 1/6 continuous cardiac murmur at the second left intercostal space. Multidetector computed tomography coronary angiography demonstrated a patent ductus arteriosus (Figures 1a and b). The coronary arteries and cardiac spaces were normal.

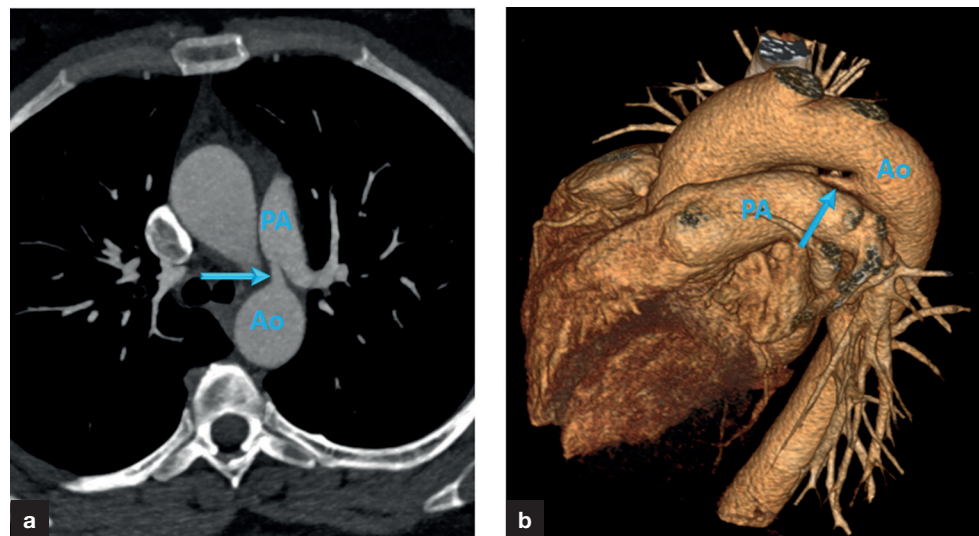


Figure 1. a. Axial and (b) reformatted multidetector computed tomography coronary angiography showing a patent ductus arteriosus (arrows). Ao=aorta; PA=pulmonary artery.

Patent ductus arteriosus is usually discovered during childhood and is extremely rare in adults. Clinical features of patent ductus arteriosus depend on the diameter of the ductus, the age of the patient, the intraductal pressure differential, and the presence or absence of other associated cardiac anomalies (Cassidy et al, 2009). Patients with patent ductus arteriosus who have no symptoms are usually discovered incidentally on an echocardiogram or computed tomography angiogram performed for other reasons. Patients with small patent ductus arteriosus can be asymptomatic, but have a risk of developing infective endocarditis. Thus, appropriate diagnosis of these patients is vital in determining the appropriate therapy.

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Reference

Cassidy HD, Cassidy LA, Blackshear JL. Incidental discovery of a patent ductus arteriosus in adults. *J Am Board Fam Med.* 2009;22(2):214–218. <https://doi.org/10.3122/jabfm.2009.02.070230>

How to cite this article:

Koksall A, Topcu S, Ogul H, Kantarci M. Incidental diagnosis of a patent ductus arteriosus via computed tomography angiography in an asymptomatic adult. *Br J Hosp Med.* 2021. <https://doi.org/10.12968/hmed.2021.0275>