

Hypertension caused by a renal artery aneurysm

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A 40-year-old woman with resistant hypertension was referred to the authors' department for further investigation. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography was performed in the arterial phase to look for renal artery stenosis as a possible cause. This demonstrated a left renal artery aneurysm of 14x11 mm (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1. Volume-rendered three-dimensional image showing a left renal artery aneurysm (white arrowhead).

Renal artery aneurysms cause hypertension in 73% of cases (Nosher et al, 2006). Most of the aneurysms are saccular and non-calcified (Nosher et al, 2006). Renal artery aneurysms are caused by fibromuscular dysplasia, senile degeneration, vasculitis or trauma (Nosher et al, 2006). Improvement in hypertension is reported following surgery. Management of these aneurysms depends on patient age, sex, aneurysm size and anticipated pregnancy (Nosher et al, 2006). Renal artery aneurysms should be kept in mind in patients with resistant hypertension, especially in young women with resistant hypertension.

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Reference

Nosher JL, Chung J, Brevetti LS, Graham AM, Siegel RL. Visceral and renal artery aneurysms: a pictorial essay on endovascular therapy. *Radiographics*. 2006;26(6):1687–1704. <https://doi.org/10.1148/rg.266055732>

How to cite this article:

Akkuş AT, Polat G, Pirimoğlu RB. Hypertension caused by a renal artery aneurysm. *Br J Hosp Med*. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.12968/hmed.2021.0540>