Cerebral embolism caused by a left cardiac ventricle metastatic tumor

Figure Results of MRI, transthoracic echocardiography, CT, and histology

Diffusion-weighted (A) and fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (B) imaging show multiple brain infarctions. Transthoracic echocardiography (C) shows an abnormal mass (arrow), and histology (D) reveals mucinous adenocarcinoma. Initial CT (E) shows a faint low-density area. Follow-up CT (F) reveals a metastatic tumor with edema. LV = left ventricle; LA = left atrium. Scale = 100 μ m.

A 71-year-old man with metastatic lung cancer was admitted to our hospital, complaining of sudden onset of severe weakness of his arm and speech disturbance. He had been treated with 5-fluorouracil and was completely independent in his daily life. MRI revealed multiple infarctions within the left hemisphere (figure). Transthoracic echocardiography showed a mobile mass. Three months later, follow-up CT revealed multiple metastases at the infarct region.

Cerebral infarction is a common complication associated with cancer.^{1,2} However, there are few reports that follow the events of cerebral embolism by a left ventricle metastatic tumor and subsequent brain metastasis with diagnostic images.

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