Intrapericardial bullet

A 69-year-old man who had a history of gunshot while on duty 43 years before applied to our hospital with typical angina pectoris. Exercise electrocardiography test was positive. On the chest radiogram, there was a small caliber bullet adjacent to the diaphragm. Echocardiography was performed to localize the bullet. From the parasternal short-axis view, it appeared in the pericardium adjacent to the right ventricular free wall (Fig. A). Fluoroscopic examination of the chest showed that the bullet was located in front of the right ventricle, just above the left hemidiaphragm, and was moving with each heart beat. This finding was strongly suggestive of a pericardial location of the bullet (Fig. B, C). There was no involvement of coronary arteries. Relation of the bullet with the pericardium was also demonstrated by computed tomography (Fig. D). Due to the asymptomatic course for 43 years, the patient did not accept surgery; hence, a close follow-up was scheduled.

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Figures. (A) Transthoracic echocardiogram from the parasternal short-axis view showing a bullet (arrow) in the right ventricular pericardium. (B) Left anterior oblique (60°) and (C) right anterior oblique (30°) views showing the right coronary artery and left anterior descending artery, respectively, in relation to the bullet. (D) Volume-rendered computed tomographic image shows the bullet (arrow) in the right ventricular pericardium.