A pericardial cyst due to familial Mediterranean fever

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In familial Mediterranean fever, peritonitis, pleuritis, and synovitis are common manifestations, but the pericardium is rarely affected (nearly %0.7). A 32-year-old man with familial Mediterranean fever presented to our cardiology clinic with a three-year diagnosis of pericardial cyst detected by transthoracic echocardiography. The pericardial cyst was localized posterolateral to the left ventricle and measured 5.6 x 3.5 cm. His serologic markers for hydatid cyst were found negative. On presentation, he had no symptoms and his physical examination was normal. On the chest radiogram, there was a smooth density about the left border of the heart (Fig. A). Transthoracic echocardiography demonstrated a pericardial cyst posterolateral to the left ventricle (Fig. B, C). A 64-slice computed tomography scan of the chest showed a cystic mass within the pericardium lateral to the heart, measuring 6 x 3.5 cm (Fig. D, E).

Figures. (A) Chest radiogram showing a smooth density about the left border of the heart. (B, C) Transthoracic echocardiograms demonstrating a pericardial cyst near the left ventricle. (D, E) The cystic mass is seen within the pericardium lateral to the heart on 64-slice computed tomography scans.