

LEFT VENTRICULAR PSEUDOANEURYSM

Juan C. Lopez-Mattei, M.D.; Faisal Nabi, M.D.; Stephen H. Little, M.D.; Dipan Shah, M.D.
Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, The Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas

This image is from a 71-year-old male with recent myocardial infarction and clinical symptoms of congestive heart failure. Transthoracic contrast echocardiography (modified apical 3-chamber view) shows a wide based outpouching in the inferolateral wall, suggesting left ventricular (LV) aneurysm formation (Figure A). Further assessment with cardiac MRI (thrombus imaging sequence) shows differences in tissue characteristics between myocardium (grey) and thrombus (black)

within the outpouching region of the lateral and inferolateral walls (Figure B). The only structure separating the LV cavity from the intrathoracic space is the pericardium (arrows), diagnostic of contained LV rupture. In this case, cardiac MRI was helpful in distinguishing LV pseudoaneurysm (contained rupture) from a true LV aneurysm. The patient underwent coronary artery bypass surgery with endoventricular circular patch repair and was discharged from the hospital.

