

Vegetations' Size, Appearance and Occurrence in Patients with Infective Endocarditis

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Background: Infective endocarditis (IE) is a serious disease with different clinical manifestations, varying according to the underlying cardiac disease, the microorganism involved and the vegetation profile. In this work we analyzed vegetations' size and appearance in relation to the clinical presentation, course of the disease, complications and the type of the microorganism.

Methods and results: A total of 146 patients with definit diagnosis of IE were identified at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center during the years 1998 to 2010. Vegetations were found in 84%, in the vast majority on TEE. Size of vegetation was available in 80 patients. Mean vegetation size was 11 mm (3-20). In 18 patients 2 vegetations were found. In 3 patients more that 3 vegetations were reported. All patients with very large and mobile vegetations were operated upon. There was no correlation between the size of vegetations and microorganisms type. There was no correlation between size of vegetation and patients age or clinical presentation.

Conclusion: In this large retrospective series of patients with IE, vegetation size was not related to the any specific microorganism. The presence of very large and mobile vegetations on TEE appeared to be an important indication for surgery.