

QUESTION

A 65-year-old male patient with a long history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia is brought to the emergency department by ambulance after a fall at home. He reports feeling lightheaded and dizzy for several days before the fall. On arrival, he is found lying on the floor with a head injury. The patient's vital signs are stable, and he is responsive to verbal stimuli. A physical examination reveals a small, superficial laceration on the forehead and a mild left-sided weakness of the lower extremities. A computed tomography (CT) scan of the head shows a small, acute subdural hematoma in the right parietal region. The patient is admitted to the hospital for further evaluation and management.

Which of the following is the most likely cause of the patient's symptoms and fall?

A. Aortic stenosis
B. Carotid artery stenosis
C. Coronary artery disease
D. Deep vein thrombosis
E. Hypertension

ANSWER

The correct answer is A. Aortic stenosis. The patient's symptoms of lightheadedness and dizziness, along with the acute subdural hematoma, are most likely caused by aortic stenosis. Aortic stenosis is a condition characterized by a narrowing of the aortic valve, which restricts the flow of blood from the left ventricle to the aorta. This can lead to a decrease in cardiac output and a drop in blood pressure, which may cause the patient to feel lightheaded and dizzy. The acute subdural hematoma is a collection of blood between the layers of the dura mater, which can be caused by a fall or trauma. The patient's long history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia are also risk factors for aortic stenosis.

DISCUSSION

The patient's symptoms and fall are most likely caused by aortic stenosis. Aortic stenosis is a condition characterized by a narrowing of the aortic valve, which restricts the flow of blood from the left ventricle to the aorta. This can lead to a decrease in cardiac output and a drop in blood pressure, which may cause the patient to feel lightheaded and dizzy. The acute subdural hematoma is a collection of blood between the layers of the dura mater, which can be caused by a fall or trauma. The patient's long history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia are also risk factors for aortic stenosis.

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ANSWER

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