Mercury deposits as incidental CT findings on a coronary calcium score

Depósitos de mercurio como hallazgo tomográfico incidental en un índice de calcio coronario

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Forty seven-year-old male referred to our center for coronary artery calcium score to be determined. Relevant past history included a suicide attempt with elemental mercury intravenous injection. Non-contrasted tomographic images of the heart showed evidence of calcium on circumflex (11 Agatston units) and right coronary artery (28 Agatston units). Diffuse metal deposits were identified on exploratory images (Fig. 1). Metal deposits were also observed on the right ventricle and lung, both consistent with mercury (Fig. 2). Mercury poisoning is a rare event, generally associated with suicide attempts or accidental injections¹. Mercury can cause acute or chronic toxicity, due to both embolic and chemical damage to the lungs, heart, kidney, liver and brain; chronic course can occur without clinical toxicity².

Figure 1. Images revealing metal deposits in the lung and heart.

Figure 2. Non-contrasted tomographic images of the heart showing metal deposits on lateral wall (A) and right ventricular apex (B).

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Conflicts of interest

None.

Ethical disclosures

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Confidentiality of data. The authors declare that they have followed the protocols of their work centers on the publication of patient data.

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