Polycystic kidney disease: more than the kidneys

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A 66-year-old man with a history of heart failure (HF), hypertension and chronic kidney disease was admitted to the emergency room with symptoms of acute decompensated HF. A transthoracic echocardiogram showed severe aortic regurgitation. Coronary angiography showed dilation of the ascending aorta (43 mm) and the aortic root. A computed tomography with contrast showed multiple > 5 mm cystic lesions in the liver and kidneys (Figure 1A and B); there was a single cyst in the head of the pancreas (Figure 1C). The patient had normal liver enzymes and elevated CA 19-9. He was diagnosed with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD). Brain aneurysms were ruled out with angiography. The patient underwent ascending aorta and aortic root replacement and was discharged with improved symptoms. Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease can affect the liver and pancreas, and may be associated with aortic or cerebral artery aneurysms (1, 2).

References