

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

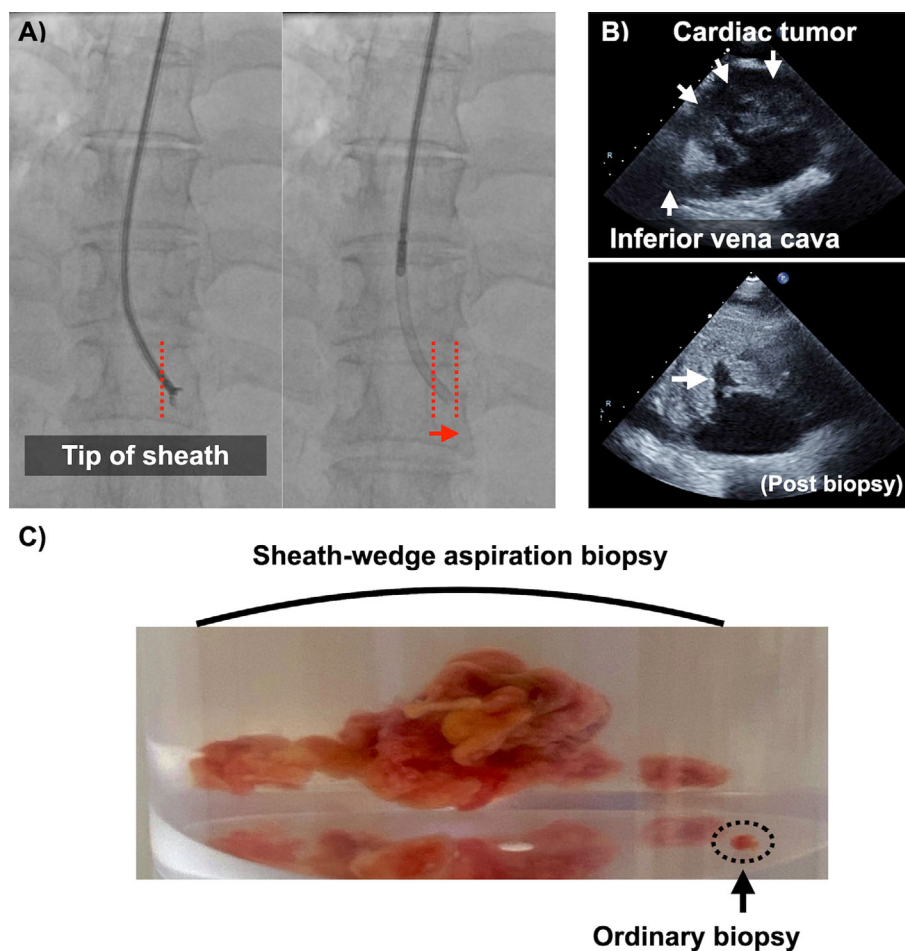
Sheath-wedged Aspiration Biopsy for the Diagnosis of a Cardiac Mass

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Picture.

A 75-year-old woman presented with a right atrial tumor with pericardial dissemination. However, an examination of the pericardial fluid and forceps-obtained tumor samples did not detect malignant cells. We retried tumor biopsy using a sheath-wedge aspiration biopsy (SABx) technique. When the

forceps were retracted into the sheath, the sheath moved forward slightly in an action-reaction motion and wedged it into the tumor tissue (Picture A). Next, the sheath was aspirated under the echocardiographic observation. Echocardiography detected a tumor defect at the sheath entry site,

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and a sufficiently large amount of tissue was collected (Picture B, C). The patient was successfully diagnosed with angiosarcoma and treated with radiation therapy followed by weekly paclitaxel chemotherapy.

Although a histological diagnosis is vital for determining cancer treatment, a tumor sample by the standard biopsy method is small and may not provide sufficient information (1, 2). The SABx technique aids in the diagnosis and treatment planning for patients with cardiac tumors.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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