心臓の反時計針回転と超音 波長軸断層図における aorto-septal angle との関係 Counterclockwise rotation of the heart: A correlative study with tomographic echocardiography

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Summary

On the long-axis view of tomographic echocardiography, the aorto-septal angle (AS angle) of cases with straight back syndrome was wide and was thought to be due to clockwise rotation of the heart rather than right ventricular enlargement.

In the present study, the AS angle of 21 cases with counterclockwise rotation of the heart (CCW) was measured on the long-axis view. The counterclockwise rotation of the heart defined here as having a shift of the transitional zone to the right with a small septal q wave at V_2 and/or V_3 to V_6 in the precordial leads. Every case of CCW was found to have an absence of main pulmonary artery shadow on posteroanterior projection of the chest X-ray film.

The control groups consisted of 40 normal individuals and 14 cases of straight back syndrome. The AS angle of normals ranged from 120° to 158° with a mean of 142° . The AS angle of the latter varied from 140° to 165° with a mean of 150° . On the other hand, the 21 cases with CCW showed the AS angle from 80° to 129° with a mean of 102° . Since every CCW showed dilatation and/or elongation of the thoracic aorta on their radiographs, the narrowed AS angle was probably due to rightward twist of left ventricular outflow tract with some posterior retraction of the aorta. This causes the rightward twist of upper portion of the septum and results in a shift of the transitional zone to the right with a small q wave at V_2 and/or V_3 to V_6 in the precordial leads.

When normally vissible main pulmonary artery shadow disappears on the postero-anterior chest X-ray film, the CCW is indicated radiographically.

The narrowing of the AS angles on the long-axis views of tomographic echocardiography also indicates the CCW and correlate with both electrocardiographic and radiographic findings of CCW.

The cause of CCW has not been well delineated. In the previous paper, we have suggested that the left ventricular overloading has little influence in producing CCW. In the present study, the 21

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cases with CCW did not show either the left ventricular hypertrophy or the dilatation on their echocardiograms further supporting our hypothesis.

Key words

Counterclockwise rotation (CCW)

Aorto-septal angle (AS angle)

はじめに

かつて我々は、超音波長軸断層図において、 straight back syndrome やS状中隔例の大動脈 と心室中隔とのなす角度(以下 AS 角とする)に ついて報告した¹⁾. すなわち straight back syndrome では AS 角は拡大し、S 状中隔では狭小化する. 今回、心電図ならびに胸部 X 線において、心臓の反時針廻転(以下 CCW とする)の所見を有する症例の AS 角について知見を得たので報告する.

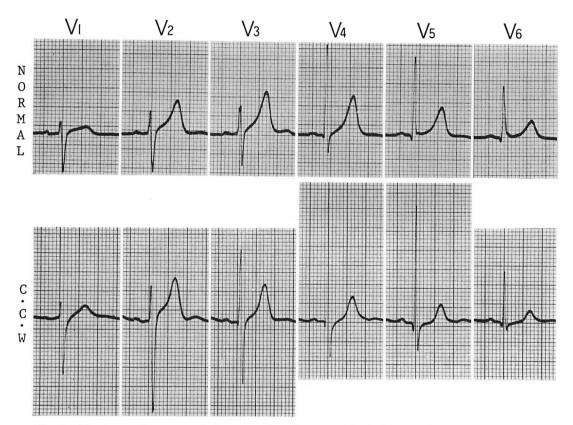


Fig. 1. Electrocardiograms of the normal and counterclockwise rotation of the heart.

The upper row is a normal electrocardiogram with the transitional zone at V_3 and a small septal q wave is seen in V_4 to V_6 . The lower row shows an electrocardiogram with the transitional zone at V_3 and a septal q wave from V_3 to V_6 indicating counterclockwise rotation (C.C.W) of the heart. There are some tall QRS in V_4 and V_5 but no significant ST-T changes suggesting the presence of left ventricular overloading.

対象と方法

今回報告する CCW とは、 ${\bf Fig.~1}$ のごとく心電図で移行帯が ${\bf V_2}$ あるいは ${\bf V_3}$ にあり、これらの誘導より ${\bf V_6}$ まで小さな中隔 ${\bf q}$ 波が 認められるものである。その多くは 高血圧患者であるが、当然 のこと ながら 心筋梗塞、 肺梗塞、 心筋症、 W-P-W、 脚枝ブロックなどの異常 ${\bf q}$ 波や、導子のわずかな位置の変化によって出没する ${\bf q}{\bf V_3}$ や、移行帯の右方偏位のみで ${\bf V_3}$ に ${\bf q}$ 波の認められないものは除外した。心電図上 CCW を示したものは、 ${\bf Fig.~2}$ の右側の胸部 ${\bf X}$ 線のごとく、 肺動脈弓が消失し、 ${\bf X}$ 線上にも CCW と判定された。

以上のように判定した CCW 例 21 例に対して、Aloka 製 SSD-101 S を用い、被験者を仰臥位にて、第 4 肋間胸骨左縁に探触子をおき、拡張期の長軸断層図を記録した。また、同じ時期に同じ方法で記録した 312 例のうち、正常者例 40 例、時計針回転(以下 CW とする)を示している straight back syndrome、あるいは扁平胸の症例 14 例を比較対照とした。

結 果

Fig. 3 は、上段は CW を示す straight back syndrome の症例、中段は正常、下段は CCW を示す症例の長軸断層図である. AS 角はそれぞれ 158°、145°、95°で、CW では正常に比べ拡大

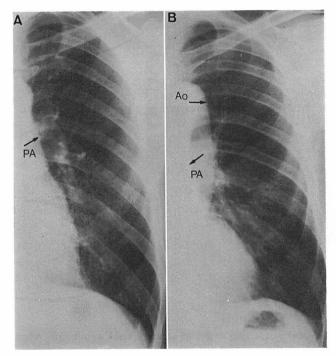


Fig. 2. Chest radiographs of the normal and counterclockwise rotation of the heart.

A normal postero-anterior projection of a chest film is shown on the left. The main pulmonary artery is visible below the aortic knob. On the right, a PA projection of chest film with counterclockwise rotation of the heart is shown. Normally visible main pulmonary artery shadow is not seen because of the counterclockwise rotation of the heart. On the other hand, a prominent aortic knob is present. The counterclockwise rotation of the heart is probably due to sclerotic and/or dilatation of the thoracic aorta rather than left ventricular overloading.

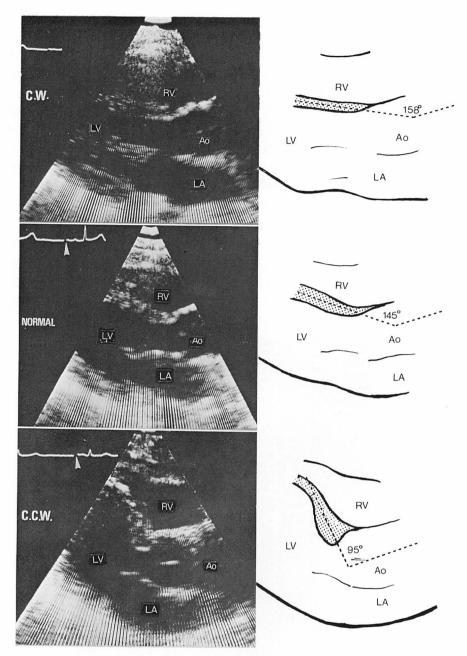


Fig. 3. The aorto-septal angle (AS angle) of straight back syndrome, normal and of counterclockwise rotation of the heart (CCW).

The upper row is a long-axis view of tomographic echocardiography of a 22-year-old female with straight back syndrome. The AS angle measured from the mid-lines of both the aorta and the septum shows 158°. The middle row is the same view of a 47-year-old normal male. The AS angle shows 145°. The lower row is a case with CCW, a 75-year-old male. The AS angle is 95°. The narrowing of the AS angle in CCW is probably due to a rightward twist of left ventricular outflow tract. A protrusion of upper portion of the septum to the left ventricular cavity may be the portion of the posterior aspect of the septum. Similarly, the posterior portion of the apical septum shifts to the right ventricular cavity.

Table 1. The AS angles of straight back syndrome, normal and counterclockwise rotation of the heart

	Cases	Age	AS angle (mean)
CW (Straight back)	14	35	140~165° (150°)
Normal	40	40	120~158° (142°)
CCW	21	64	80~129° (102°)

The table shows the number, a mean age and the AS angles of clockwise rotation of the heart (CW) due to straight back syndrome, normals and counterclockwise rotation of the heart (CCW).

し, CCW では狭小化していた. 以上を **Table 1** にまとめてみると, AS 角の平均値は正常例 40 例では 142° であるのに対して, CW を示す straight back syndrome 14 例では 150° と拡大し, CCW を示す 21 例では 102° と鋭角に近くなっていた.

症例 1:50 歳, 男性, 軽症肺結核 (Fig. 4)

胸部 X 線では肺動脈弓は消失し、心電図では移行帯が V_2 と V_3 の間にあり、中隔 q 波は V_3 より出現し V_6 まで続き、X 線、心電図いずれにおいても CCW の所見を呈していた。 長軸断層図では、大動脈前壁に連なる心室中隔は AS 角 90° の鋭角をなし前胸壁に向かっていた。大動脈径の 拡大 および後方偏位により左房径は狭小化し、右室流出路は広く記録された。

症例 2:69歳, 男性, 高血圧症 (Fig. 5)

本例も胸部 X 線では肺動脈弓は消失し、心電 図では移行帯は V_1 と V_2 の間にあり、中隔 q 波は V_6 より出現した。 長軸断層図では AS 角は 85° と狭く、大動脈径の拡大、左房径の狭小、右室流出路の拡大がみられた。

考案

AS 角の判定にあたっては、常にビーム入射部位による誤差を考慮する必要がある。 Fig. 6 は正常例の長軸断層図である。A は第 3 肋間胸骨左縁より、B は第 4 肋間胸骨左縁より、C は第 5 肋

間胸骨左縁より, D は第5肋間鎖骨中線よりビームを入射したものである.このように,正常例の場合でもビーム入射部位によって AS 角にかなりの相違をもたらすものである.特に,下方・心尖部寄りからビームを入射した場合は,AS 角の狭小化を示すこともある.しかし,我々が対象とした正常例では,少なくとも第4肋間胸骨左縁から入射した場合には, 110° 以下の AS 角は認められなかった.また,我々が CCW とした 21 例では,第4肋間胸骨左縁からビームを入射する以外には,大動脈と中隔の両者を鮮明に検出することは不可能であったので,CCW における AS 角の狭小化は,ビーム入射部位の相違による誤差によるものではないと考えられる.

心電図胸部誘導にみられる $V_{5\sim 6}$ の q 波は、心 室中隔が左から右に 興奮する結果の septal q 波 と考えられている. この septal q 波が $V_{2\sim 3}$ に 認められるということは, **Fig. 7** に示す ごとく, 中隔上部のねじれにより中隔上部の左室側が前胸 壁に向かっていることであり、これは心臓の反時 計針回転を意味している. この CCW の成因に ついては、左室肥大よりもむしろ胸部大動脈の変 化と相関性があることを著者はすでに報告し た^{2,3)}. 今回の症例においても, 胸部 X 線, 心電 図, 心エコー図において, 左室肥大および拡張は ほとんど認められず、全例に大動脈起始部の拡大 を認めた. この大動脈の変化が中隔上部に影響 し、左室側中隔上部を前胸壁に向かわせたために AS 角が狭小したものと思われる. さらに, 右室 流出路が拡大して記録されるのは、回転によりビ ーム入射経路が異なったものと, 大動脈起始部が 後方にわずかに偏位したためにもよると考えられ る.

以上より、CCW を示す症例の AS 角の狭小化は、上部心室中隔のねじれおよび大動脈自身の変化に よるものと 我々は 考えているが、 同じく AS 角の狭小化を 示す S 状中隔とともに、 今後はさらにその成因について検討を要すると思われる

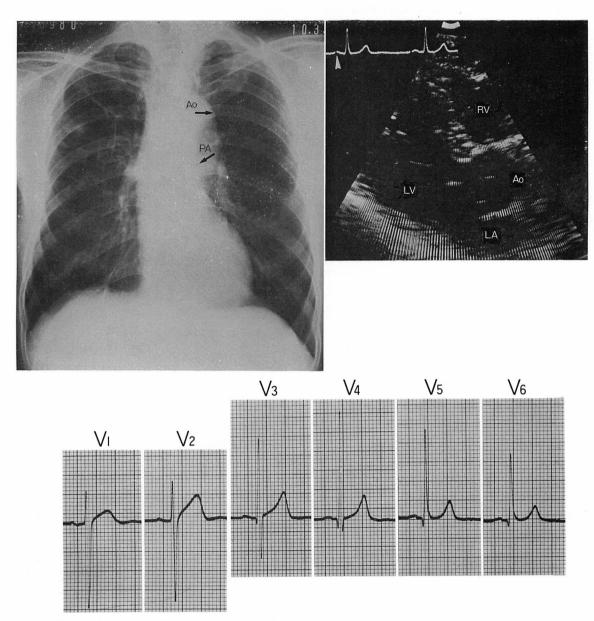


Fig. 4. A chest radiograph, long-axis view and precordial leads of a case with counter-clockwise rotation of the heart.

A 50-year-old male with inactive pulmonary tuberculosis of the right upper lobe shows widening of the descending aorta with invisible main pulmonary artery shadow. The cardiothoracic ratio is within normal limit. The AS angle is about 90° . The precordial leads show the transitional zone between V_2 and V_3 . A small septal q wave is present from V_3 to V_6 . There is no evidence of left ventricular overloading.

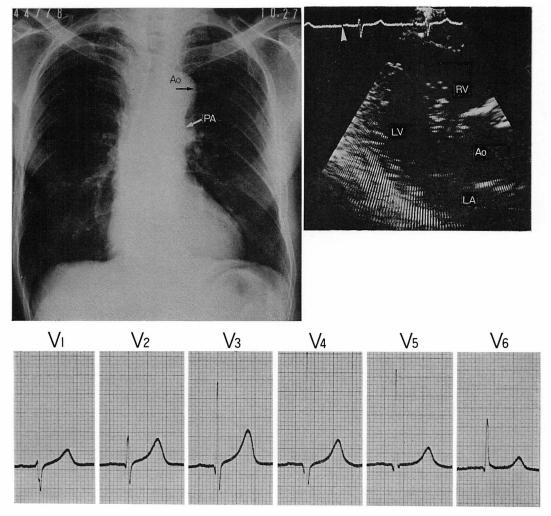


Fig. 5. A chest radiograph, long axis view and precordial leads of a 69-year-old male with hypertension.

The chest radiograph shows a prominent aortic knob with a normal cardio-thoracic ratio. The AS angle is about 85° and a dilatation of the aorta is seen. The narrowed left atrial cavity is probably due to the dilated and posteriorly displaced aorta. The transitional zone is between V_1 and V_2 with a small q wave from V_2 to V_6 indicating counterclockwise rotation of the heart. There are no suggesting evidence of left ventricular overloading in both the electrocardiogram and chest X-ray film.

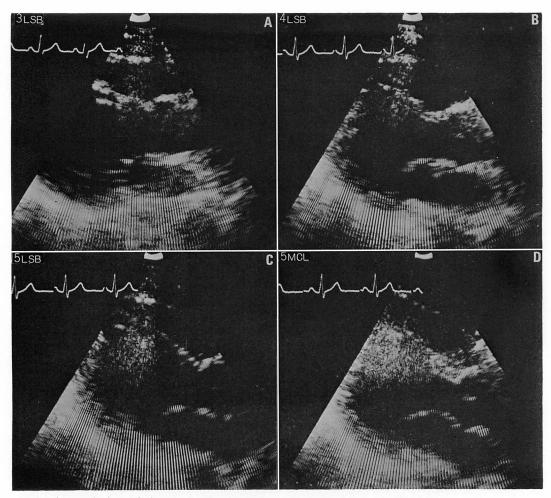


Fig. 6. Variation of the AS angle due to erroneous direction of the echo beam.

Variations of the long-axis views in a 47-year-old male due to different directions of the echo beam are demonstrated. The left upper row A is normal recording of a long-axis view from the 3rd intercostal space at the left side of the sternum. The AS angle is about 155°. The right upper row B is taken from 4LSB and the AS angle is about 135°. The left lower row C is that from 5LSB and the AS angle is about 130°. The right lower row is that taken from the 5th intercostal space on the mid-clavicular line near the cardiac apex. The AS angle shows about 120° with some distortion of the septum. It should be emphasized that the AS angle can be varied upon the different direction of the echo beam even in a normal person. The counterclockwise rotation of the heart described in the present paper, however, showed that the view of the AS angle is obtained only from a very limited area near the 3LSB and the narrow AS angle in counterclockwise rotation of the heart was not from the erroneous position and/or the direction of the echo beam.

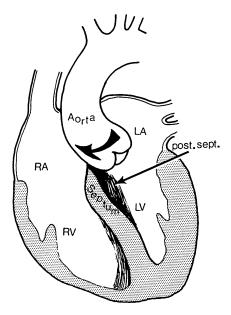


Fig. 7. A schematic drawing of counterclockwise rotation of the heart.

A schematic drawing of a dilated aorta with some rightward twist results in a prominent appearance of posterior aspect of the upper portion of the septum in the left ventricular cavity. This may be the cause of some protrusion of the upper portion of the septum to the left in a long-axis view of tomographic echocardiograph. The portion underneath this upper portion of the septum is outflow tract of the right ventricle which explains the enlargement of this region seen in a long-axis view. Because of this counterclockwise rotation of the outflow tract of the left ventricle, the precordial leads V2 and/or V3 may be located on the left side of the septum resulting in a small septal q wave in these leads. In our opinion, counterclockwise rotation of the heart is due to secondary changes in the aorta and not due to left ventricular change itself.

要 約

心電図および胸部 X 線上 CCW の所見を有する症例 21 例に超音波断層図を施行し、AS 角を測定し検討した.

正常者例 40 例, CW の所見を有する straight back syndrome あるいは扁平胸を呈する症例 14 例を比較対照とした.

その結果,正常者例の AS 角は $120\sim158^\circ$ で その平均は 142° であるのに対して, CW 例は $140\sim165^\circ$ でその平均は 150° と拡大し, CCW 例の AS 角は $80^\circ\sim129^\circ$ で平均は 102° と鋭角に近づいている.

CCW を示す症例の全例に、胸部大動脈の延長・拡大がみられることより、胸部大動脈の変化が上部心室中隔をねじり、そのため左側上部心室中隔が前胸壁に向ったため(これを心臓の反時計針回転という)と、大動脈起始部の後方偏位とにより AS 角が狭小化したものと思われる.

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