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## IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY

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### Ball thrombus in the left ventricle

This echocardiogram was performed on an 84 year old woman admitted with left ventricular failure. She had suffered an anterior myocardial infarction 15 years previously, and was known to have chronic lymphatic leukaemia. She had not received antiplatelet or anticoagulant treatment in the past.

The cross sectional echocardiogram (apical four chamber view) demonstrates a large ball thrombus (arrow) floating freely in the left ventricle. There is evidence of a previous myocardial infarction: the inter-ventricular septum is aneurysmal and the left ventricle is globally dilated and poorly contractile. The aortic valve is calcified and stenosed, preventing the thrombus from leaving the ventricular cavity. Indeed on several occasions the thrombus was seen to "bounce off" the aortic valve.

Although the incidence of left ventricular thrombus after myocardial infarction is about 30%, the finding of thrombus completely free in the left ventricle is rare. There are some reports of surgical removal of such thrombus. However, we believed that this was inappropriate in this frail patient. She died four months later.

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