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## SHORT CASES IN CARDIOLOGY

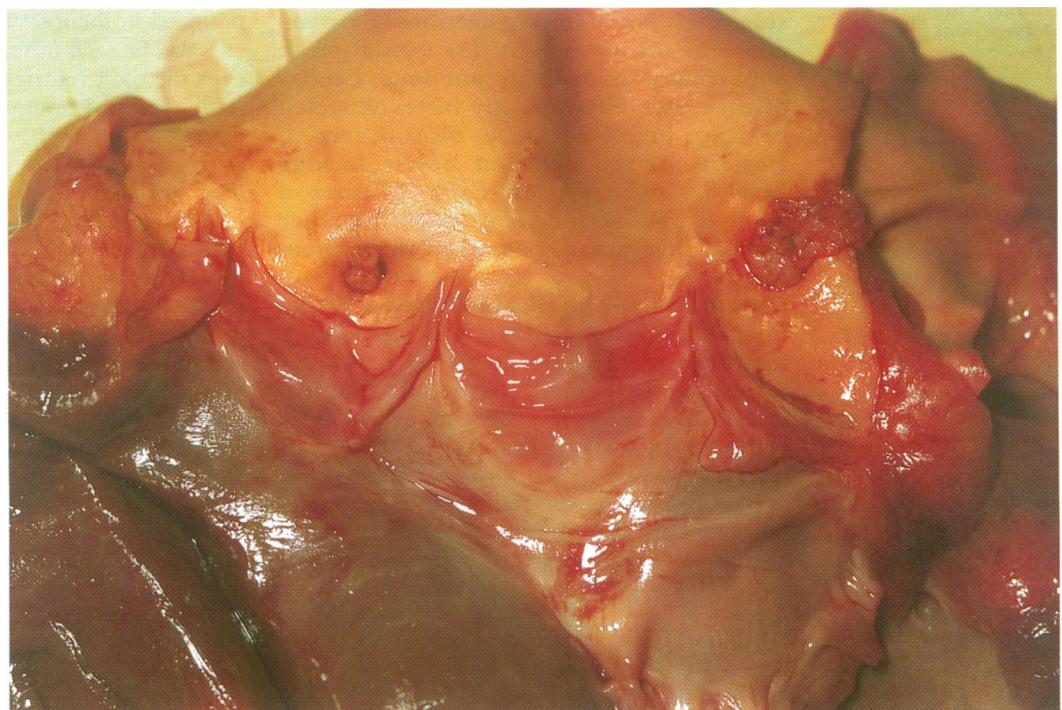
### Coronary ostial occlusion: "Have you seen anything like this?"

Iftikhar Ahmed, M C J Sissons, David Hesketh Roberts

A 48 year old deaf and dumb woman presented with a 12 month history that strongly suggested angina with recent worsening of chest pain. Diagnostic angiography showed normal coronary arteries. The procedure was uneventful but one hour later the patient suffered a fatal cardiorespiratory arrest. Post-mortem examination revealed only that both coronary ostia were occluded by recent platelet rich antemortem thrombus in the absence of any underlying significant intimal disease or any evidence of trauma to the deeper tissues (figure). No primary site of embolisation was demonstrated. Stains for fungi and bacteria, autoimmune screening,

and serology for syphilis were negative.

Any explanation to account for the pathology requires consideration of the cause of chest pain. This patient may have had an intense vasospastic potential and shut down her arteries over the catheters, thus allowing thrombus to develop. According to this hypothesis spasm would have been the cause of her prior angina. Alternatively she may have had an intense thrombotic potential which became manifest when the endothelium was damaged by catheters in the coronary orifices. This does not, however, explain the previous angina.



Anterior view of the ascending aorta showing thrombi at each coronary ostia.

Department of  
Cardiology, Victoria  
Hospital, Blackpool  
I Ahmed

Department of  
Pathology, Victoria  
Hospital, Blackpool  
M C J Sissons

Department of  
Cardiology, Victoria  
Hospital, Blackpool  
D H Roberts

Correspondence to:  
Dr D H Roberts, Victoria  
Hospital, Whinney Heys  
Road, Blackpool, Lancashire  
FY3 8NR.

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