Aneurysm of the left coronary artery bifurcation

A 51 year old male with congestive heart failure (NYHA class II–III) presented with rapidly progressive dyspnoea two days after the onset of angina pectoris. On clinical examination he was in cardiogenic shock. ECG showed a subacute anterior myocardial infarction. Chest radiographs revealed an enlarged heart and a cardiogenic pulmonary oedema. Transoesophageal echocardiography showed dilatation of all cardiac cavities, an akinetic anterior wall and apex, a decreased left ventricular ejection fraction, moderate mitral valve regurgitation, and a 37 mm large aneurysm of the bifurcation of the left coronary artery. Coronary angiography revealed thrombotic occlusion of the left anterior descending artery at the level of the aneurysm, a normal circumflex artery, and a 90% stenosis of the right coronary artery. In spite of treatment with catecholamine, the low output state persisted and the patient died from congestive heart failure a few days after admission. Dissection of the coronary arteries showed a 3 × 4 cm aneurysm of the bifurcation of the left coronary artery; the exact aetiology of this aneurysm remains unknown.

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