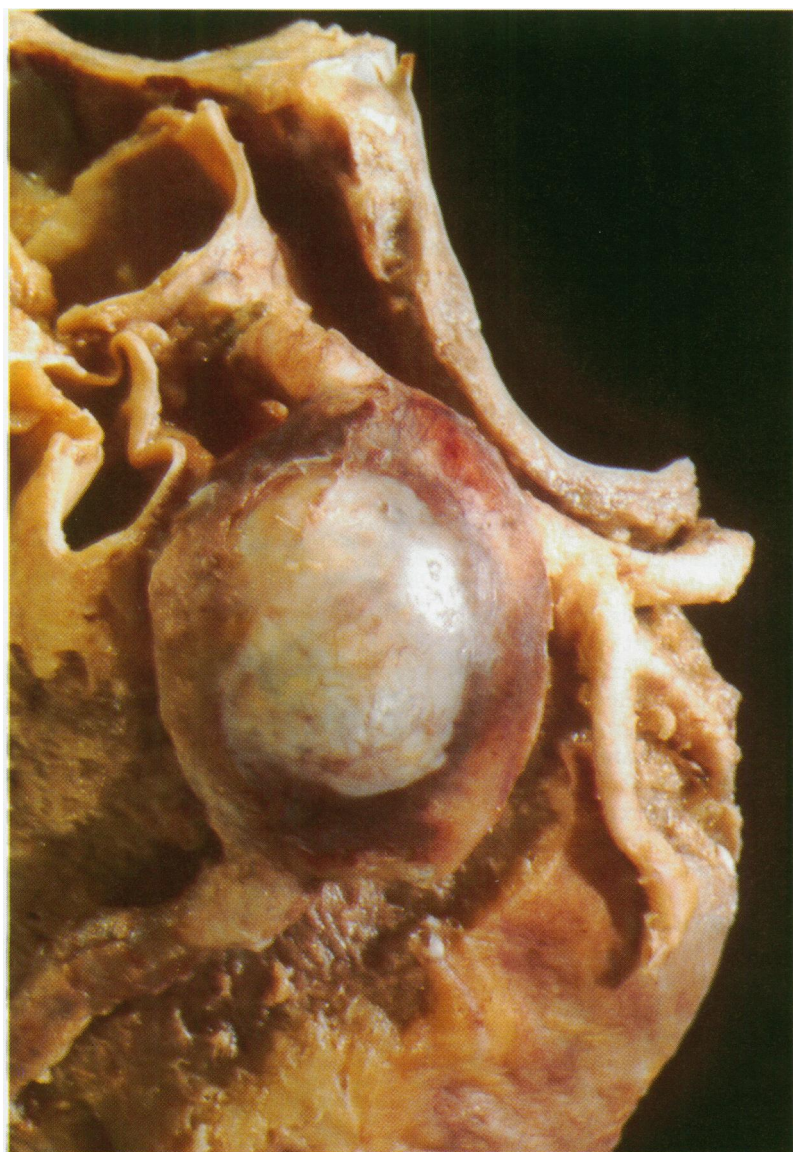


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IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY

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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