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IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY

Tricuspid valve endocarditis

A 65 year old woman with chronic renal insufficiency who had been on venous haemodialysis for six years presented with a history of weight loss, persistent fever, chest pain, and cough lasting for several months as well as recent onset of heart failure. A loud pansystolic heart murmur was detected. Tricuspid valve endocarditis with gross tricuspid insufficiency was diagnosed by means of echocardiography. Despite broad spectrum antibiotic treatment and supportive therapy she developed septic shock and fatal multi-organ failure.

Necropsy confirmed tricuspid valve endo-

carditis, consisting of two bulky soft vegetations with smooth glistening surface, measuring 4 and 3.5 cm, attached to the anterior valve leaflet, and numerous smaller vegetations on the other leaflets (A).

Histological examination of the vegetations showed huge fungal masses, consisting of septate filaments with a 45° branching characteristic of *Aspergillus* spp (B, Grocott silver stain, ×250). The lungs displayed numerous infarcts related to arterial emboli, which contained aspergillus colonies.

L DE LEVAL
M DELEIXHE
H KULBERTUS

