

**Fig 3.3: The annual registered deaths, reported deaths, coronial autopsies and forensic autopsies in England and Wales in 2013**

# CORONER OFFICER GUIDE

## SCD

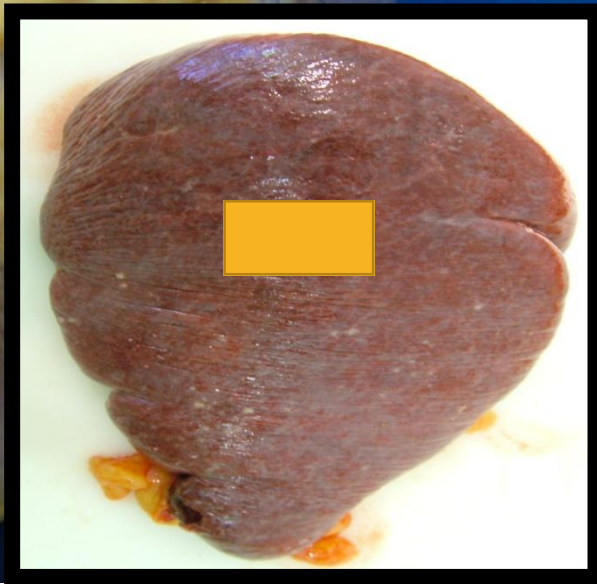
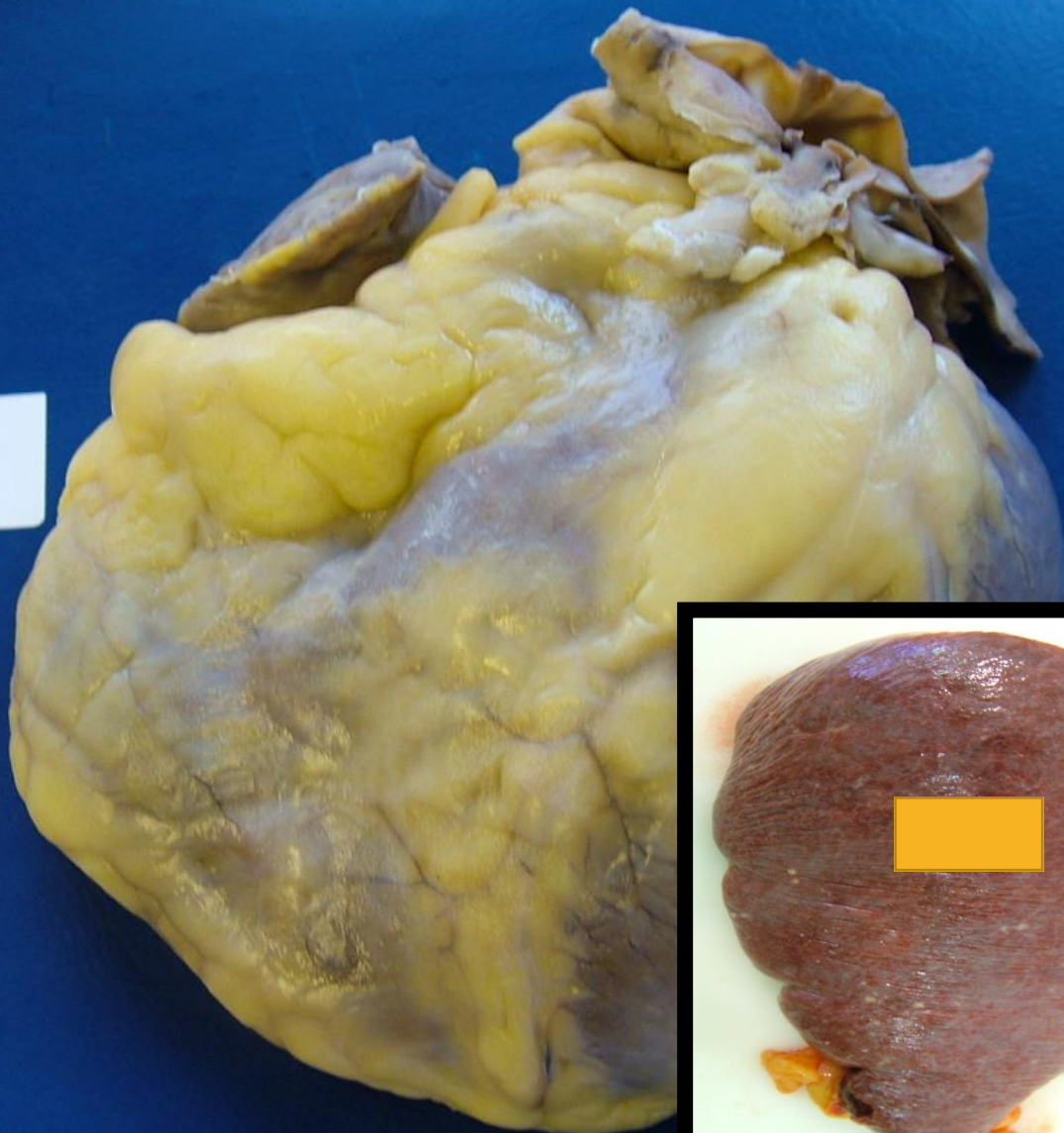
- **CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH**

- Found dead in bed with no previous significant heart disease history
- Found dead in community with no previous heart disease history
- Found collapsed in community either brought in dead or died shortly after admission to AE department of local Hospital
- Witnessed collapse with failure to resuscitate at home or in the community
- Collapse during or after sport event
- Death Following impact to chest in sport or assault
- Cardiac arrest with resuscitation and survival to hospital admission but died with hypoxic brain damage
- Drowning where circumstances are no clear. Found dead at bottom of pool with no struggle.
- Road traffic accident where circumstances indicate driver collapsed before accident or car veered off road before impact. Found dead at wheel of car that is stationary
- Toxicology is negative or non-toxic levels of drugs are found

# **CORONER QUESTIONNAIRE**

- **Was the patient previously well/ Did patient have symptoms prior to the sudden death**
- **Had patient a previous history of heart disease or attended a heart clinic.**
- **Had patient a history of cardiac arrhythmias (irregular heart beat), Had patient a previous ECG**
- **Had patient a history of chest pain, blackouts, SOB, swelling of legs**
- **Had patient a previous history of other disease, asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, PE**
- **Was patient on any medication**
- **Is there a family history of heart disease**
- **Is there a previous family history of sudden premature death or infant death**
- **Was patient a smoker / drinker**

04 H 2654





# Form C- Packing Instructions



CRY Cardiovascular Pathology  
Cardiovascular Sciences Research Centre  
St George's University of London  
Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE  
Tel.: (+44) 020 8725 5112 Fax: (+44) 020 8725 5139



## REFERRAL PACKING INSTRUCTIONS for A. Cardiac Specimens B. Spleens

Specimen to be sent to:  
Professor M Sheppard  
Site Services  
Goods Inwards  
St George's, University of London  
Cranmer Terrace  
London SW17 0RE

To ensure compliance with guidelines issued by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) please follow the following protocol which is designed to provide us with the requisite information to deal sensitively and appropriately with human tissue specimens, and to comply with relatives' wishes.

After examination is complete, we will contact you regarding collection of the specimen.  
**NOTE: The referring hospital is responsible for organising both delivery and return of material.**

**A. HEART SAMPLES:**  
SPECIMENS REFERRED TO US MUST BE FIXED IN 10% FORMALIN FOR AT LEAST 24HRS PRIOR TO DESPATCH. ALL FORMALIN MUST BE DRAINED BEFORE SENDING

- Place a label with the following information into either a ziplock or sealable bag:
  - Patients Name, DOB
  - Your Reference Number
  - Formalin hazard label
- Fix the label to the HEART
- Wrap specimen in absorbent material dampened with formalin
- Seal specimen in the ziplock/sealable bag expelling as much air as possible.
- Place in a leak proof container (i.e. wadded polypropylene screw cap container, code SCC35, from Henly's Medical Supplies Ltd, Tel: 01707 333164 or Hays DX container) surrounded by absorbent material.



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- Affix addressee label (top of page), return address of Mortuary, Name of the patient, 'Diagnostic Specimen UN3373' label, and 10% Formalin Hazard label to leak proof container.
- Pack leak proof container into an outer box.
- In the outer box include the following:
  - Completed consent form detailing relatives' permission to return/retain the blocks and slides (Form B)
  - Completed confirmation of receipt of specimen form (Form D)
  - Letter of referral with clinical details and any points of interest for investigation
  - Provide preliminary post-mortem report if available
- Seal the box with tape
- Affix Addressee (top of page 1), return address and 'Diagnostic Specimen UN3373 label to the outer box. **NOTE: NO PATIENT INFORMATION OR DETAILS ARE TO BE INCLUDED ON THE OUTER BOX.**
- Arrange a courier to deliver the specimen to us between the hours of 9am – 4.30pm Monday - Friday.

**Note: The specimen should be transported by courier ONLY.**

## B. Spleen

- If you do not have a CRY RNAlater sample tube kit, please contact us on 020 8725 5112 ASAP.
- Cut a **small fresh** piece of spleen tissue (0.5cm x 0.5cm x 0.5cm)  
The RNAlater solution **cannot penetrate large samples**, so DNA quality is poor if they are sent.
- Place tissue into pre-filled 5ml RNAlater container with lid.
- Label side of tube with patient name and date of birth using pen, or sticky label.
- Replace 5ml tube in large 50ml clear tube.
- Store at room temperature (or preferably in refrigerator) until sent by courier with specimen.
- Do not put frozen material in RNAse later. If sample is frozen, thaw first and then place in RNAse later



**NOTE: RNAlater solution can be stored indefinitely at room temperature and does not expire.**



**PLEASE ENSURE DELIVERY BETWEEN 9.30 AM - 4.30 PM**

<p><b><u>Address for delivery:</u></b>          Prof M N Sheppard          Site Services, Goods In          St George's University of London          Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE</p> <p>Prof. M. N. Sheppard          PA: 020 8725 5112/5959          Fax: 020 8725 5139</p>	<p><b><u>Address for correspondence:</u></b>          Cardiovascular Pathology          Cardiovascular Sciences Research Centre          St George's University of London          Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE</p>
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**REFERRAL OF HEART REQUEST**

Name of Patient: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ DOD: \_\_\_\_\_

Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**IM**

Please note the following:

- Consent Forms B (pages 1-2)
- Packing instructions Form C
- Confirmation of receipt Form D

**PLEASE INCLUDE THE PRELIMINARY POST-MORTEM AND BMI OF THE PATIENT.**  
**ALL FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL**

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

The information contained in this facsimile is intended only for the use of the individual or institution named. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any copying of this telecopy is strictly prohibited. If you have received this telecopy in error, please immediately notify us by telephone: 020 8725 5112

FORM A: Referral of organ request



**PERMISSIONS FORM**

**CORONER'S REFERRALS – RETURNING / RETENTION / RESEARCH & TEACHING**

Name of Deceased	
Date of birth	
Date of death	
Pathologist name	
Mortuary	
Coroner officer	
Coroner	

The heart of the patient named above is being referred to Professor Mary Sheppard (at the CRY Cardiovascular Pathology, St. George's University of London, London SW17 0RE) for specialist analysis to help determine the cause of death.

We will retain the whole heart as well as slides made from small blocks of tissue. We will retain the blocks and slides for scheduled purposes including research and teaching.

We will retain the whole heart as well as slides made from small blocks of tissue. We usually refer the heart to the referring mortuary. The mortuary wishes about what they would like to happen to the blocks and slides. Small piece of spleen will be taken for possible future genetic analysis and returned.

<b>Specimen has been referred?</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
------------------------------------	---------------

Below, concerning the heart, blocks and slides by ticking the appropriate box:

**PLEASE COMPLETE IN FULL.**

To RETAIN for scheduled purposes	To RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Small piece of spleen will be taken for possible future genetic analysis. Consent will be obtained if this is required.

RETURN / RETAIN of heart, blocks & slides

# Form B Permissions Form



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Cardiovascular Sciences Research Centre  
St George's University of London  
Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE



Tel.: (+44) 020 8725 5112 Fax: (+44) 020 8725 5139

*Otherwise the small piece of spleen will be disposed of within 3 months of completion of coroner investigation in this case*

*Unfortunately we are unable to dispose of cardiac specimens. If it has been requested for the specimen to be disposed of after analysis these will be returned to the referring centre in order for them to do so.*

Name of person completing form.....

Position of person .....

Phone number.....Fax number .....

Signature.....Date.....

Family member whom you obtained consent from .....

Relation to deceased.....

Phone number.....Fax number .....

Email.....

## RETURN OF SPECIMEN

The Unit is unable to dispose of human tissue, including the heart, so it is the responsibility of the referring centre to arrange for the return of the organ. Please give contact details of the person organising collection and the return address for the organ:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

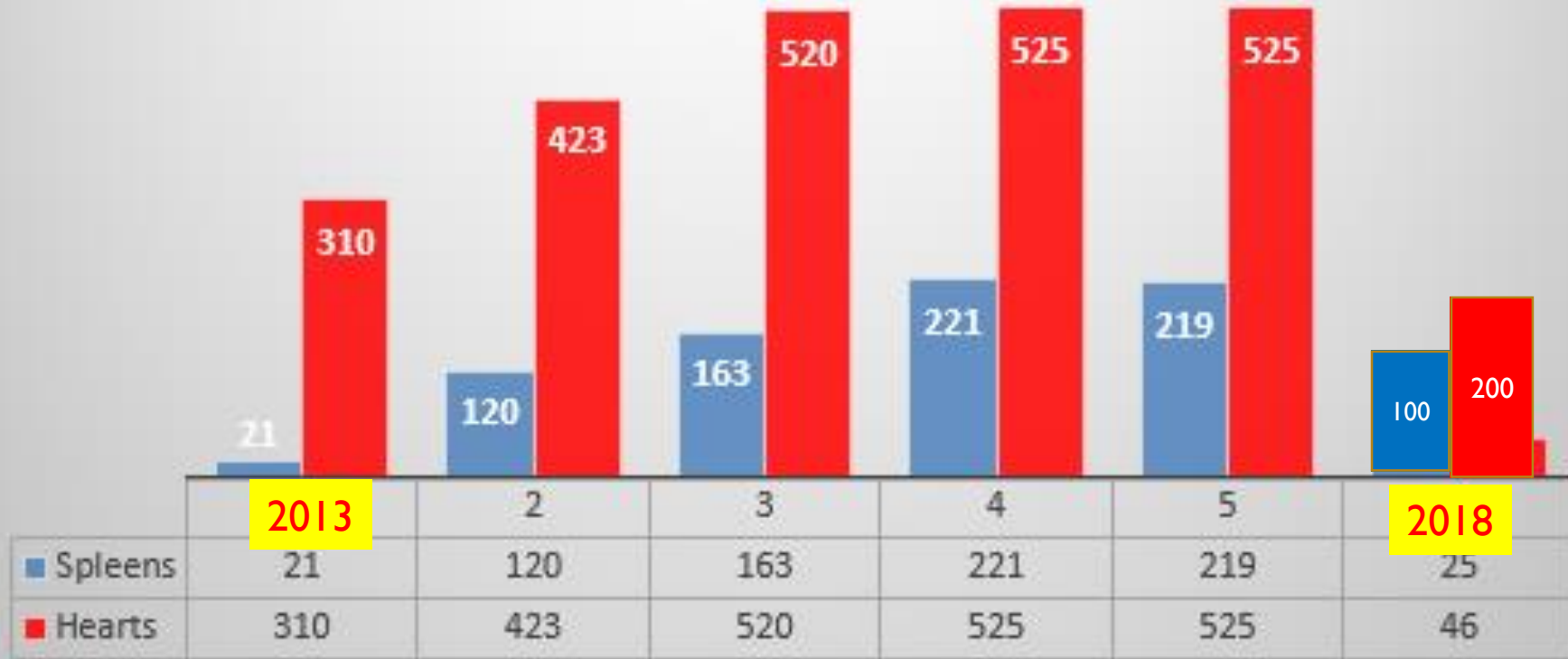
*We aim to complete examination and issue a report within 2 weeks of the date of receipt, however in certain circumstances this may be longer.*

*If there is an urgency in returning the heart for funeral arrangements please inform us so we can speed up the examination.*

# GENETIC MATERIAL

- The 100,000 genome project has been laying the foundations for delivering personalised medicine
- As of November 2018 this will form part of the new landscape of widespread provision of genetic testing across England.
- Genetic testing in unexplained sudden death in the young will be available through the NHS provided the sample has been retained.
- We therefore AS PATHOLOGISTS always aid the retention of such tissue as a matter of routine across the country at autopsy.

# SPLEEN HEARTS





- 44-year old female, One episode of palpitations earlier same day.
- No past medical history.
- Heart weight 341gm Normal







6/20/2018

ST GEORGES CRY DEPT  
CARDIOVASCULAR PATHOLOGY

13





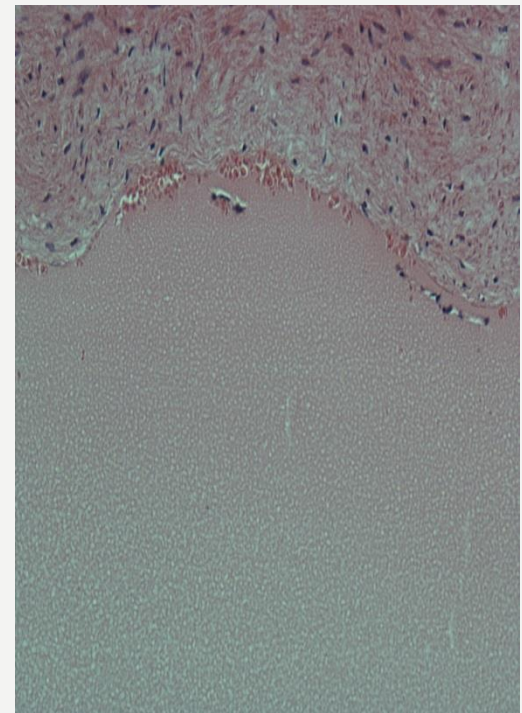
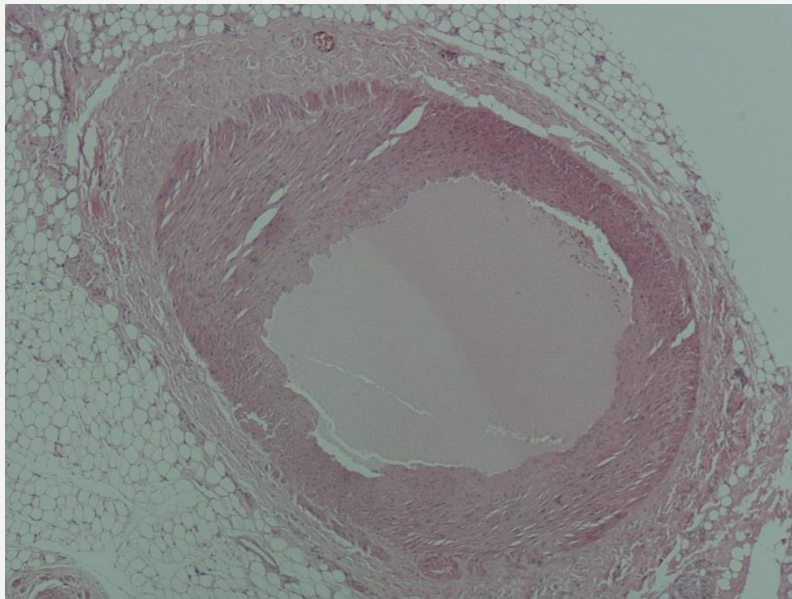


6/20/2018

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CARDIOVASCULAR PATHOLOGY

15





# DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY



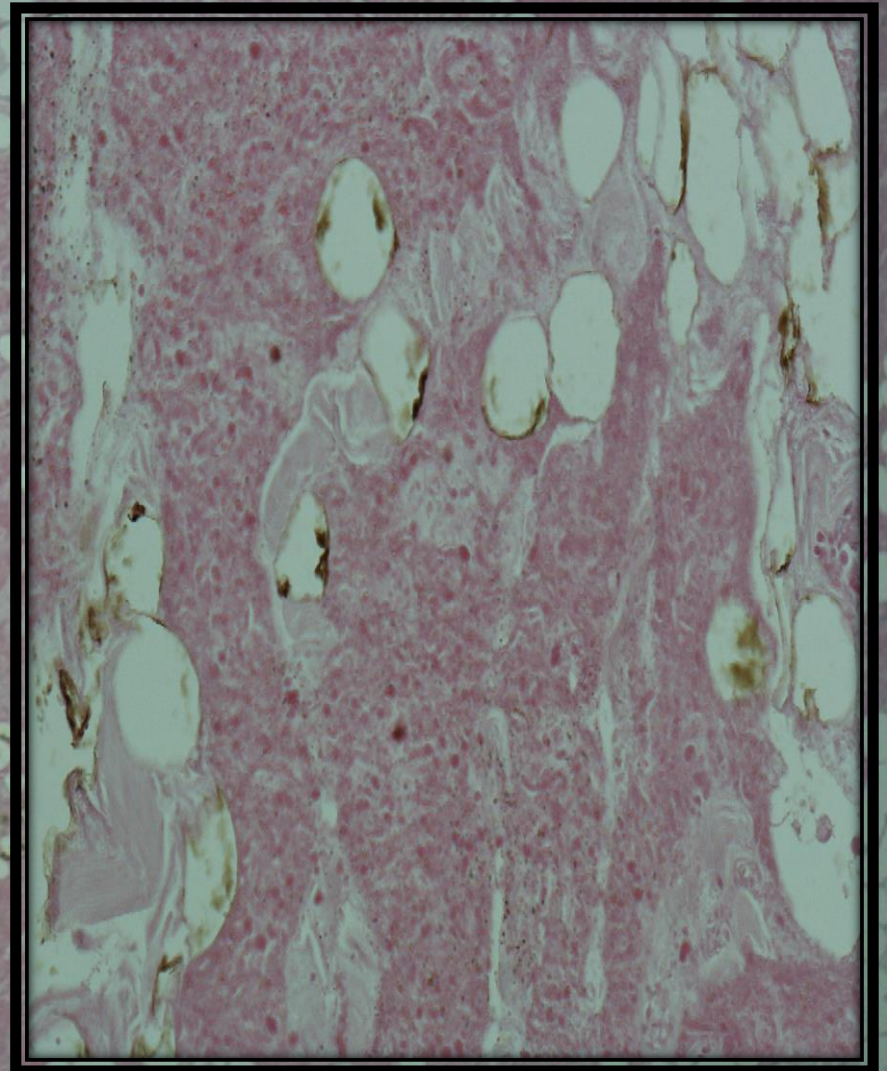
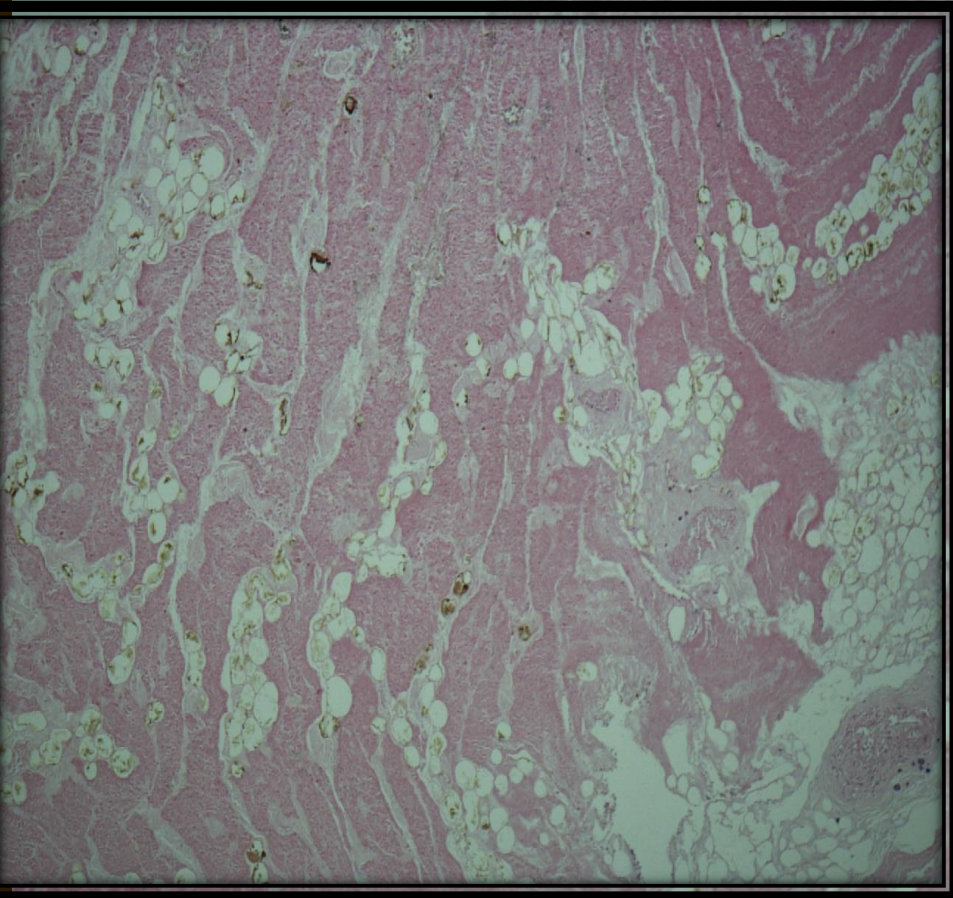


# BEWARE AUTOLYSED HEART



CRY DEPT. CARDIOVASCULAR PATHOLOGY,  
LONDON 2018





# Asymmetrical HCM



- Classical anatomic form of HCM described by Teare in 1958
- Basal anterior septum bulges beneath aortic valve
- Disproportionate thickening of interventricular septum



# Morphological Variants of HCM



- HCM with mid-ventricular obstruction +/- apical diverticulum
- HCM with ventricular hypertrophy confined to apex
- Burnt-out or dilated HCM

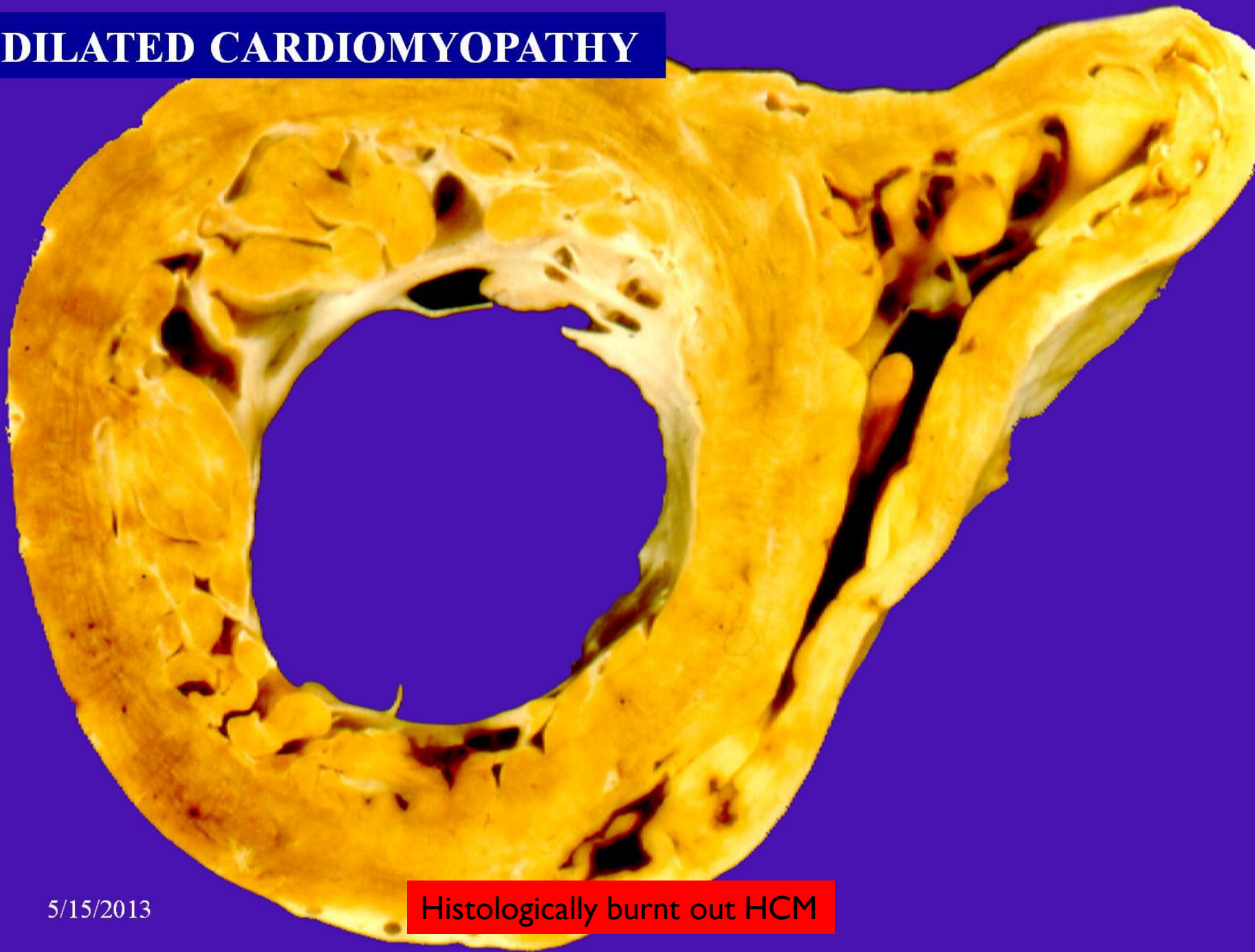
# Sub-aortic mitral impact lesion



- Similar bands of endocardial thickening can occur in hypertrophied hearts of diverse aetiologies with accentuation of the base of the septum
- eg ‘sigmoid’ septum in elderly, aortic valve stenosis, hypertension



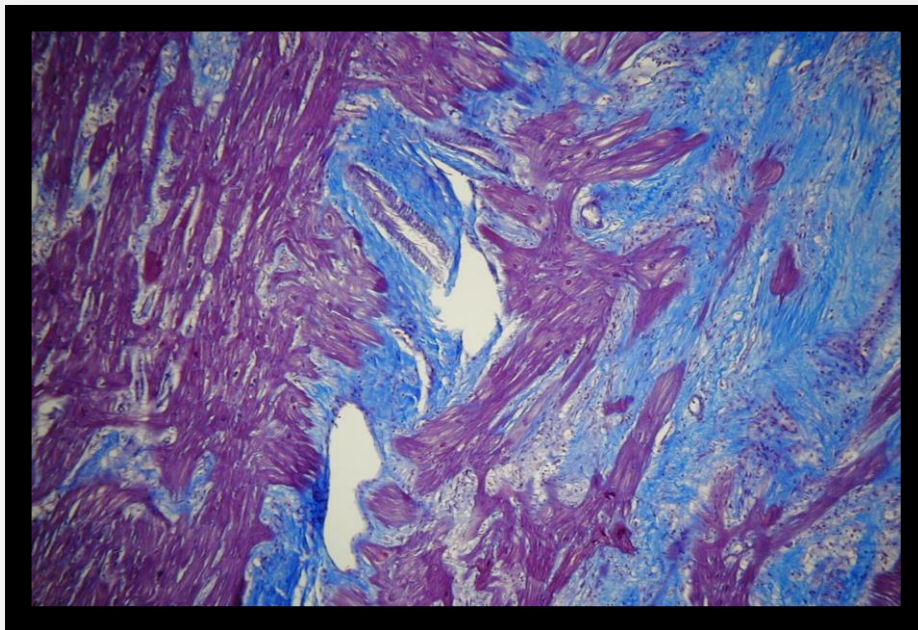
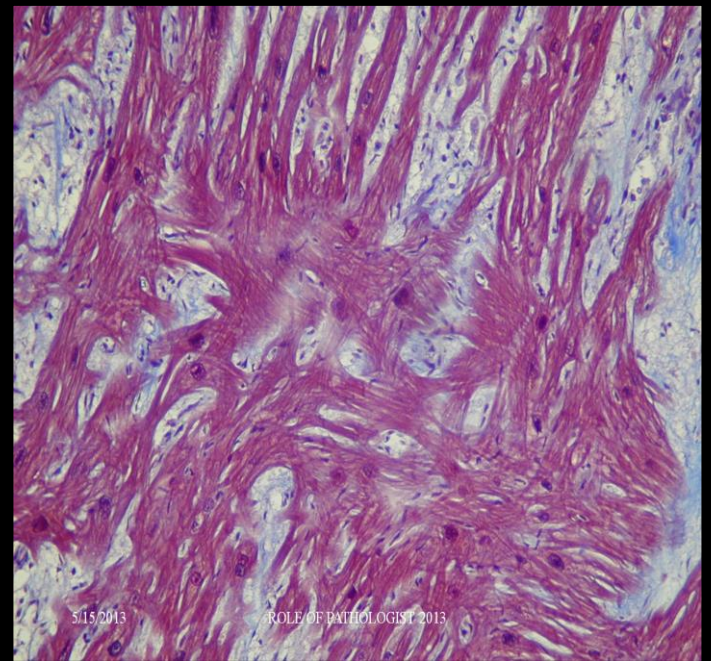
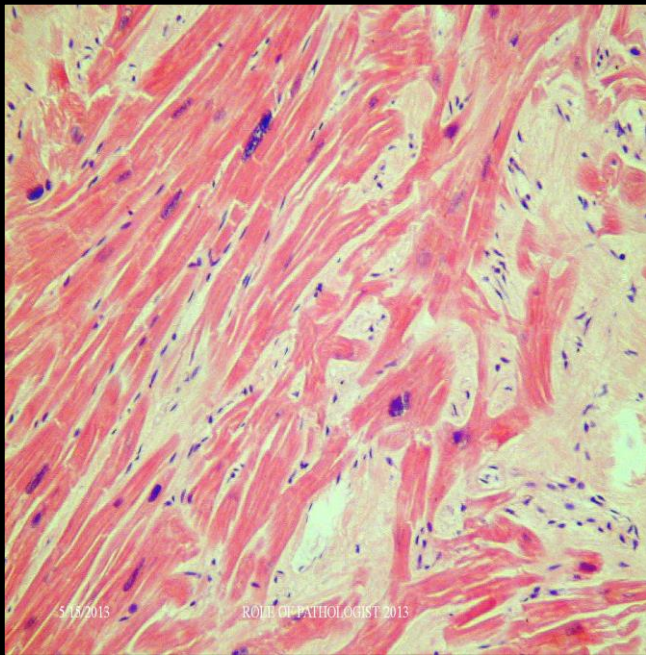
# DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY



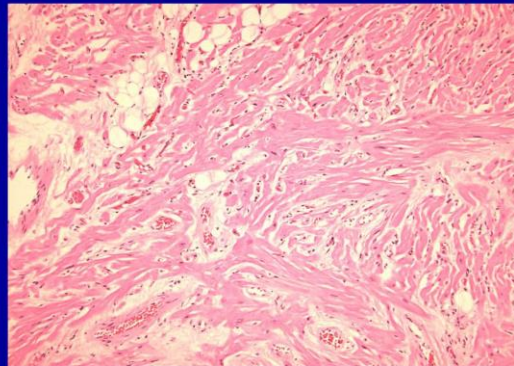
5/15/2013

Histologically burnt out HCM







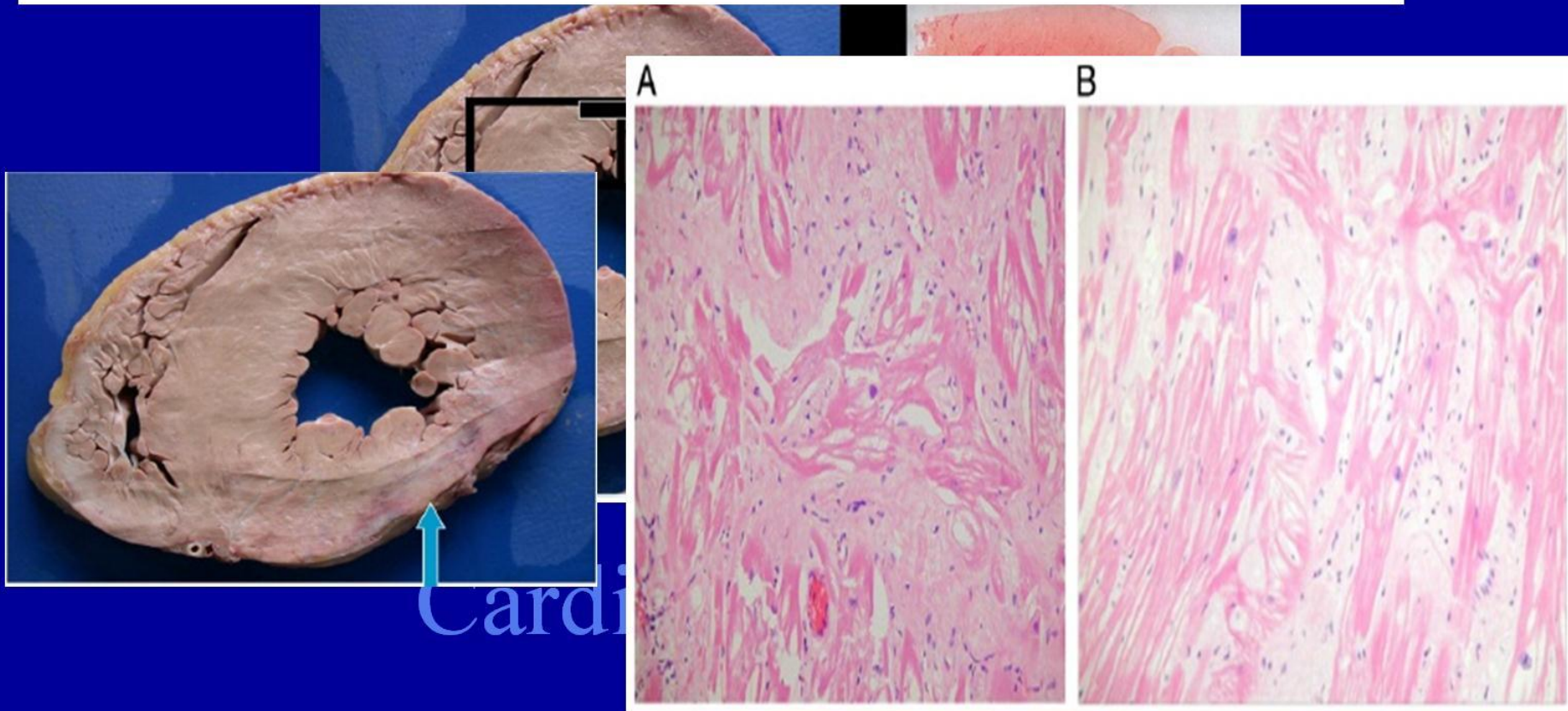


- Do not sample where the RV interdigitates with the septum

Original Article

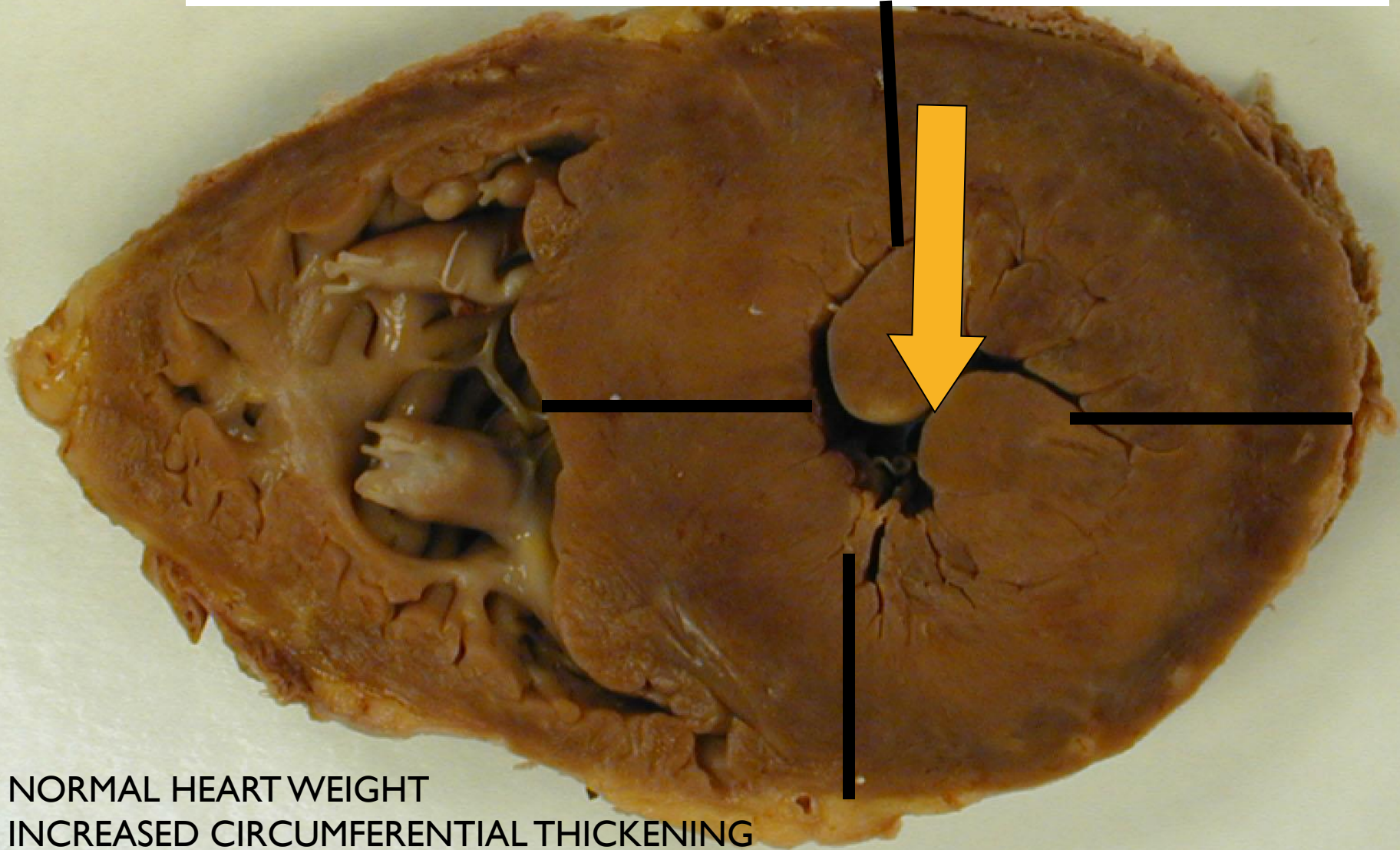
A detailed pathologic examination of heart tissue from three older patients with Anderson–Fabry disease on enzyme replacement therapy

Mary N. Sheppard<sup>a,\*</sup>, Paul Cane<sup>a</sup>, Richard Florio<sup>a</sup>, Nicholas Kavantzias<sup>b</sup>, Lydia Close<sup>c</sup>,  
Jaymin Shah<sup>c</sup>, Philip Lee<sup>d</sup>, Perry Elliott<sup>c</sup>



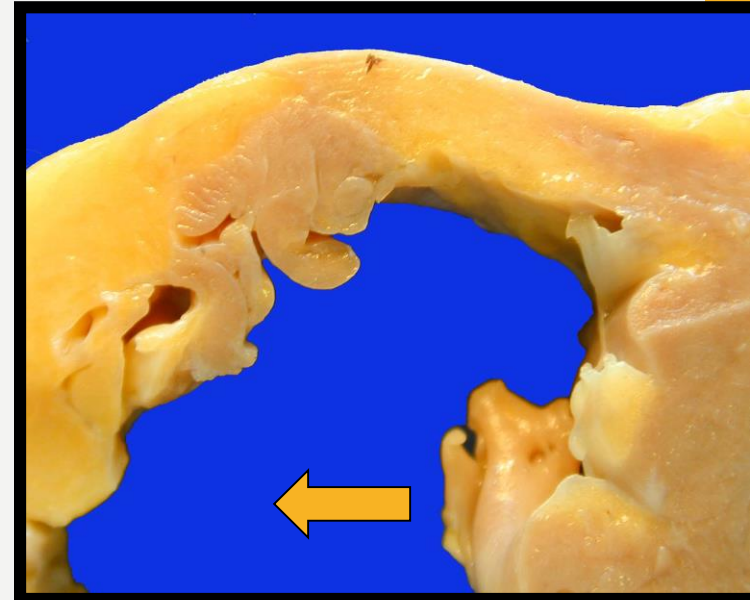
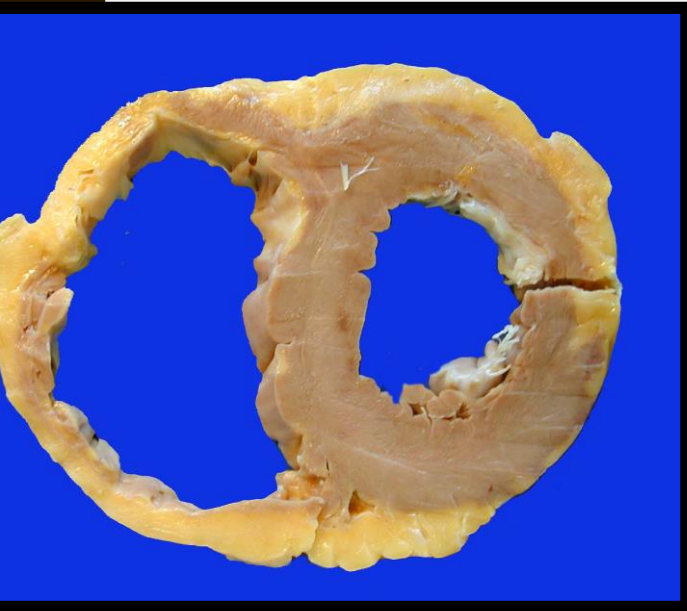


# HYPERCONTRACTED HEART DEATH IN SYSTOLE



NORMAL HEART WEIGHT  
INCREASED CIRCUMFERENTIAL THICKENING  
SMALL CHAMBER DIAMETER

# DILATED RV WITH INVOLVEMENT LV



## Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy

A S John, R H Mohiaddin and M N Sheppard

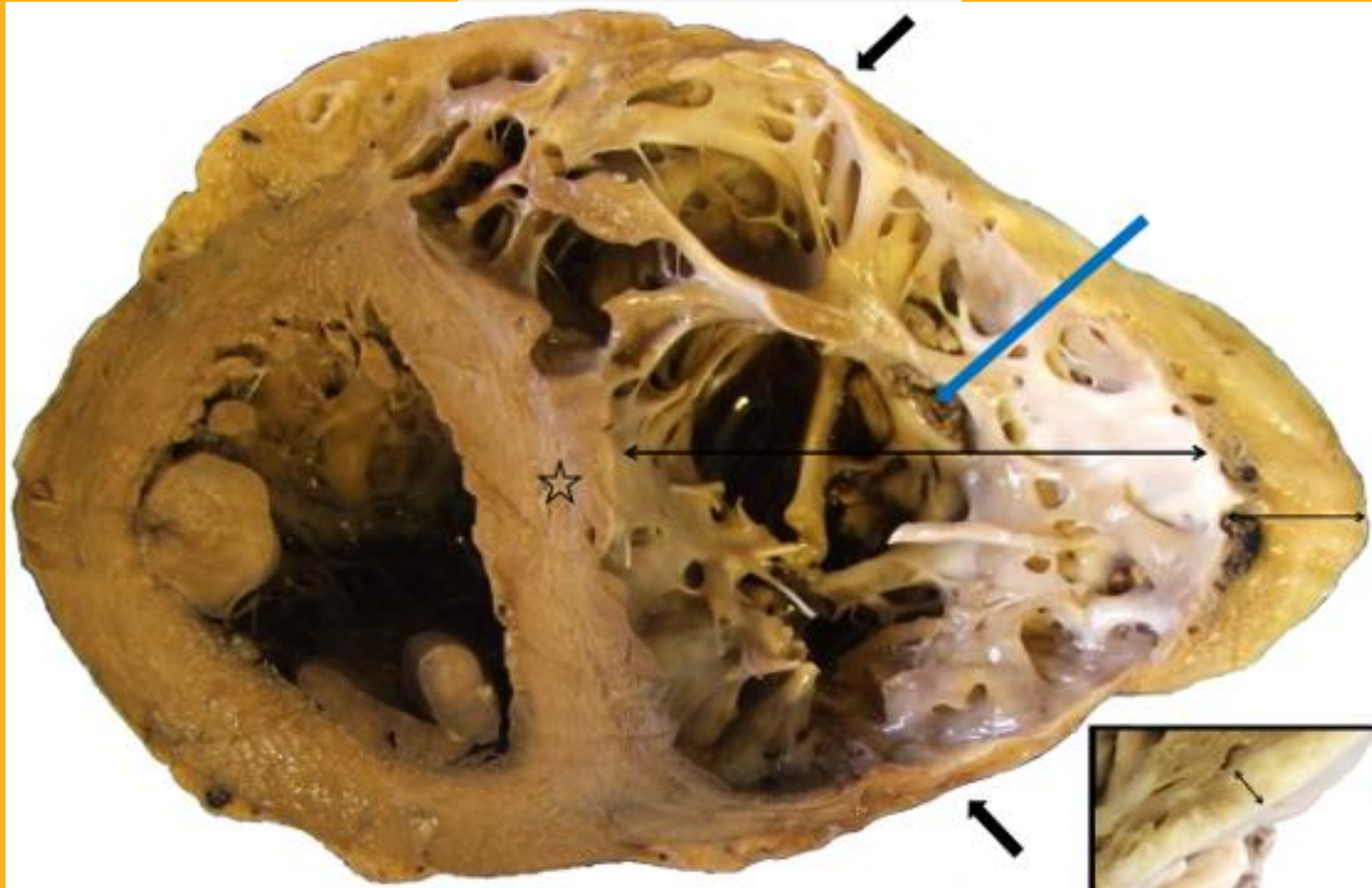
*Heart* 2004;90:1102  
doi:10.1136/hrt.2003.030841

IST IN SUDDEN  
009

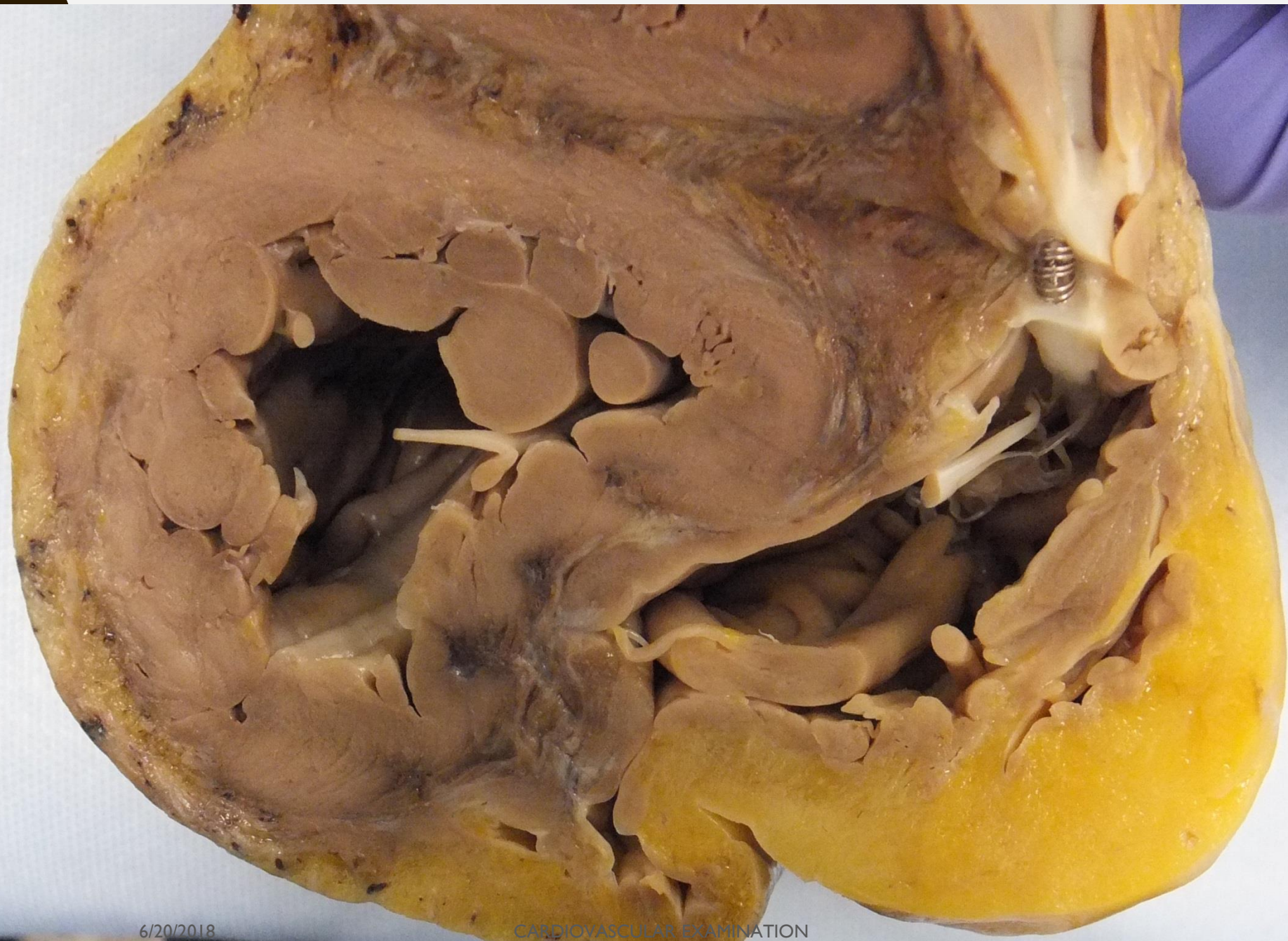
CRF DEPT. CARDIOVASCULAR PATHOLOGY,  
LONDON 2018



**Fig 3:** Cross section of right and left ventricle showing dilatation of the right ventricle. There is also thinning of the right anterior and posterior walls with scarring. Scarring can also be seen on the right side of the septum. (\*) There is transmural fatty hypertrophy of the right lateral wall. Note also pale adherent thrombus within the right ventricular trabeculae and pale thickening of the subendocardium of the right ventricular wall.

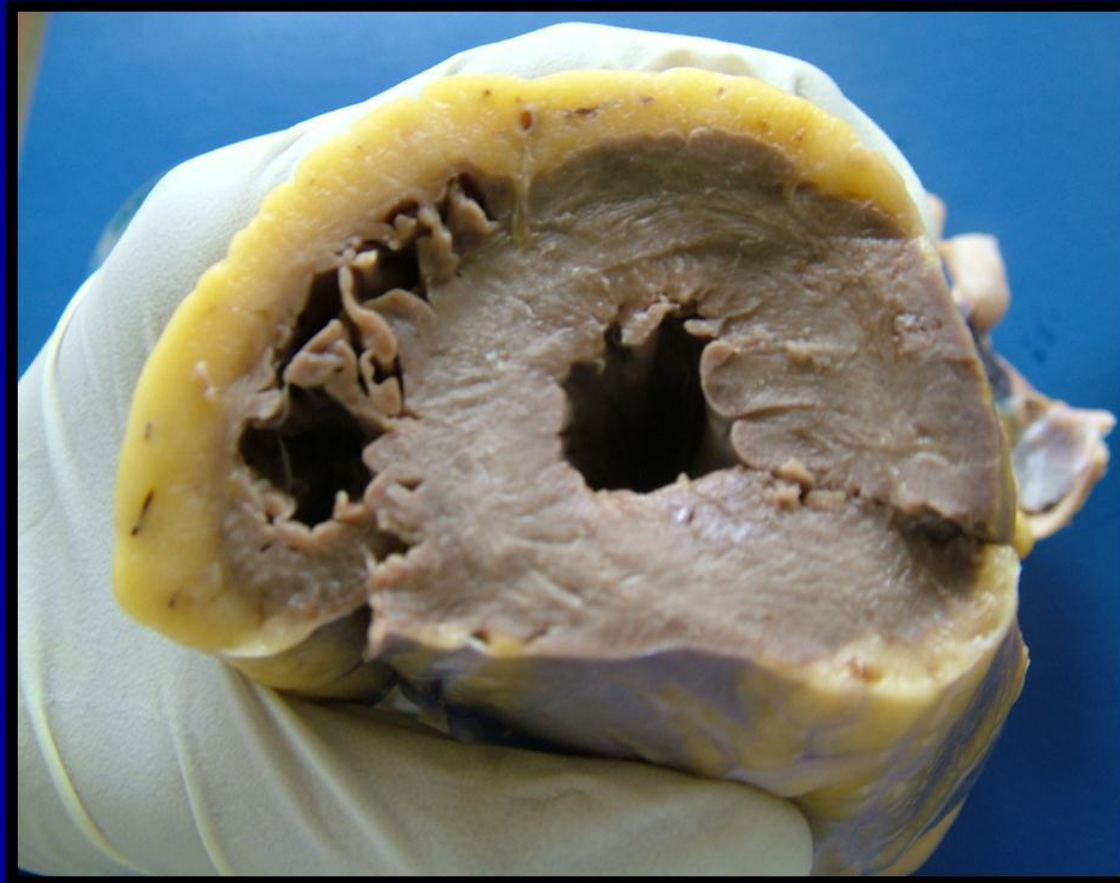








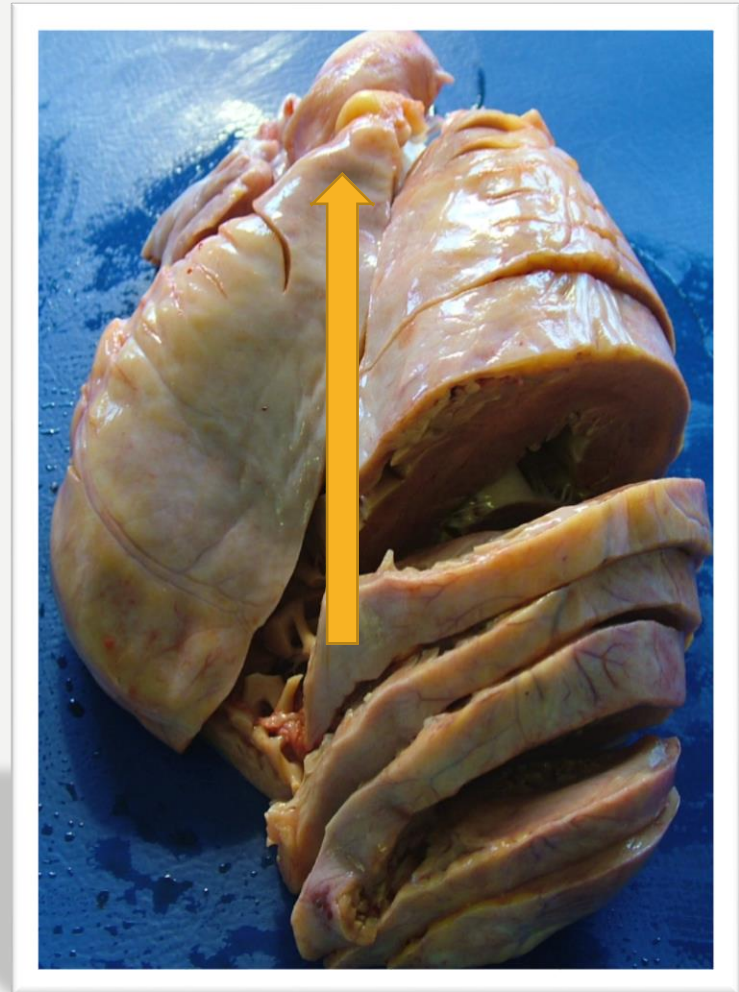
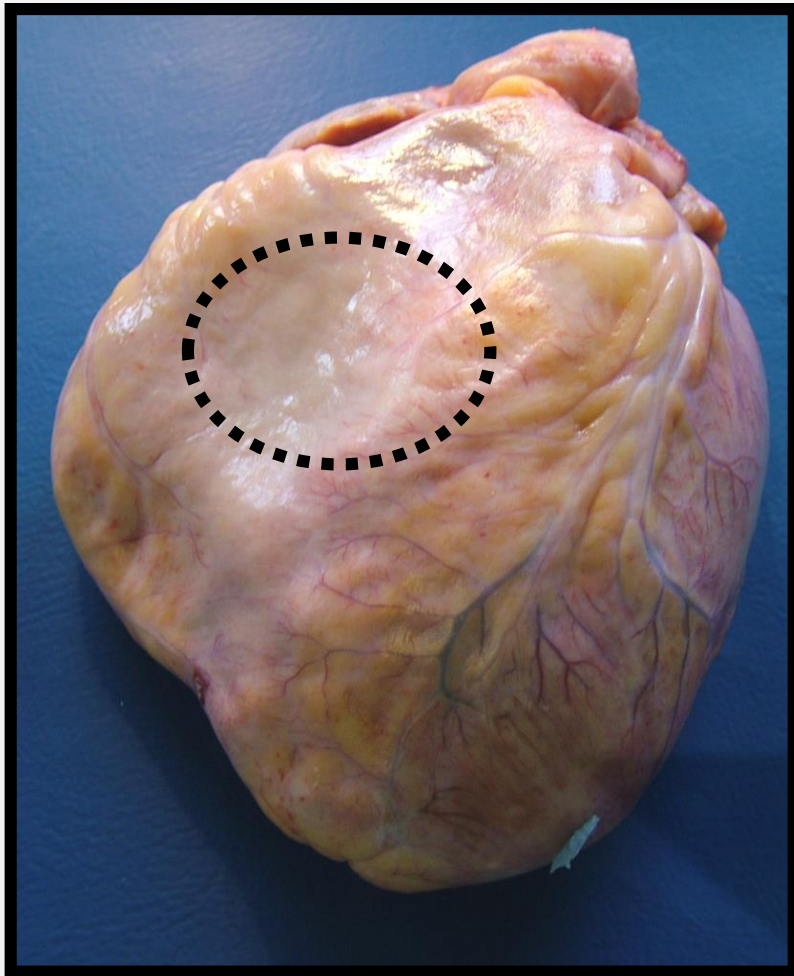
# What when you have LEFT VENTRICLE HYPERTROPHY



5/15/2013

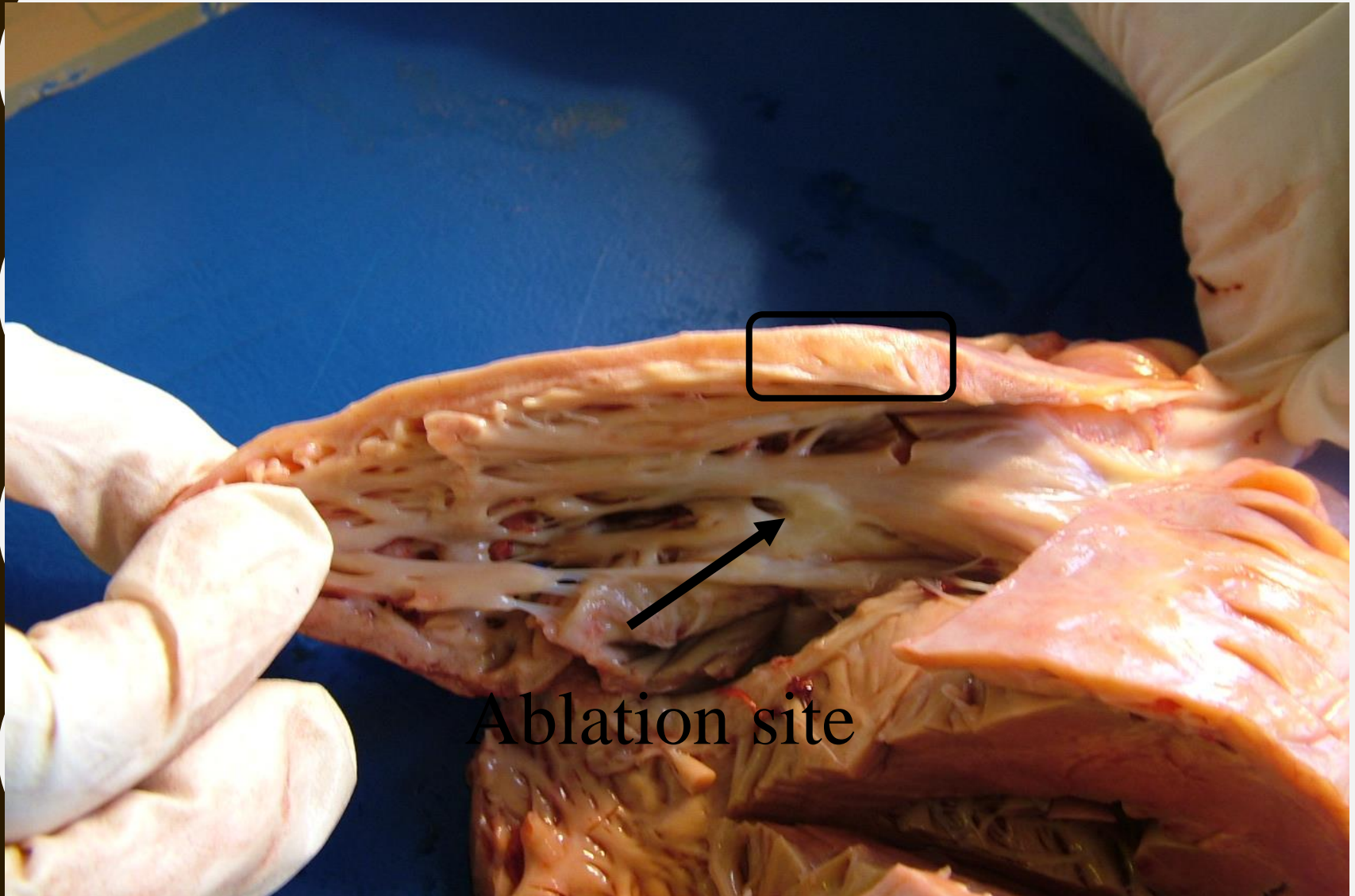
ROLE OF PATHOLOGIST 2013  
ROLE OF PATHOLOGIST IN SUDDEN  
DEATH 2009

# NORMAL APPEARING HEART



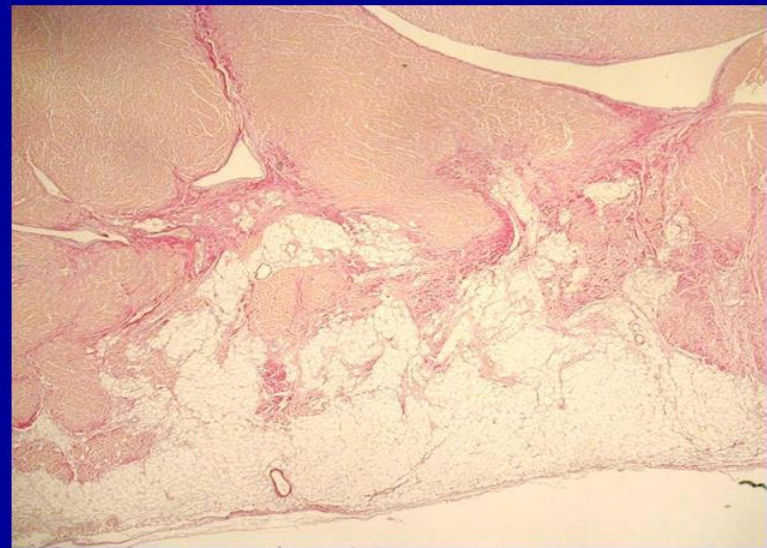
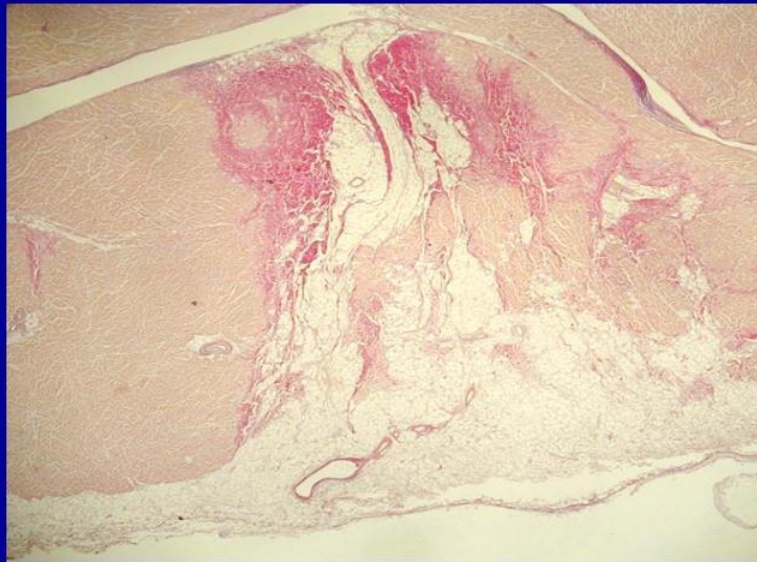
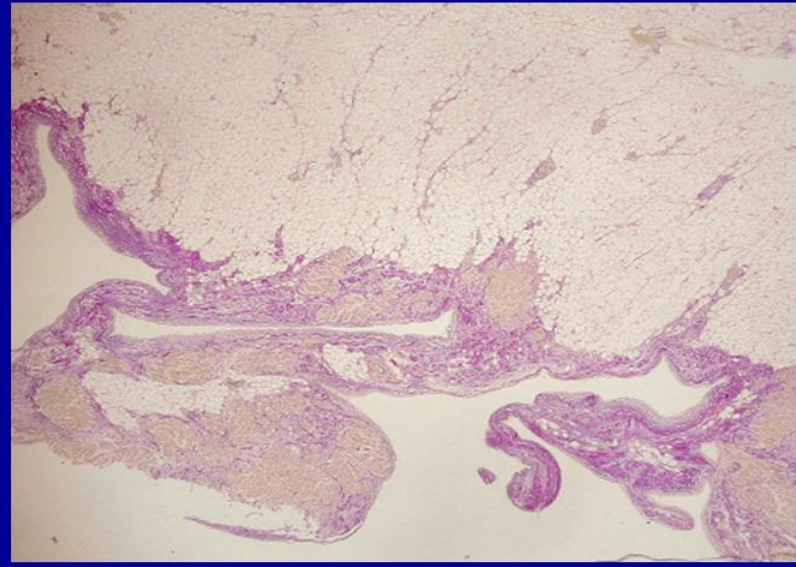
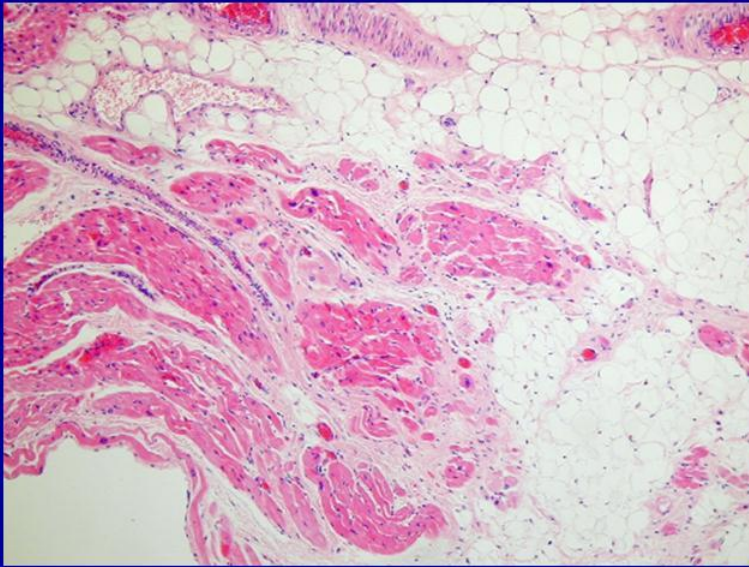


# FATTY AREA



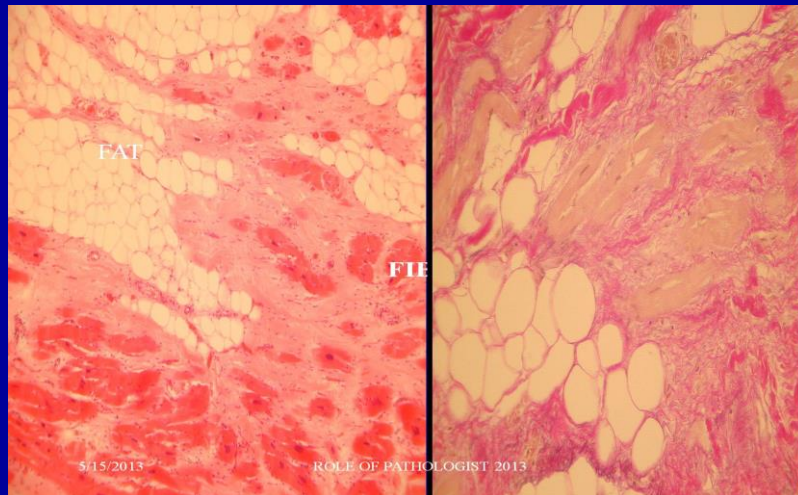
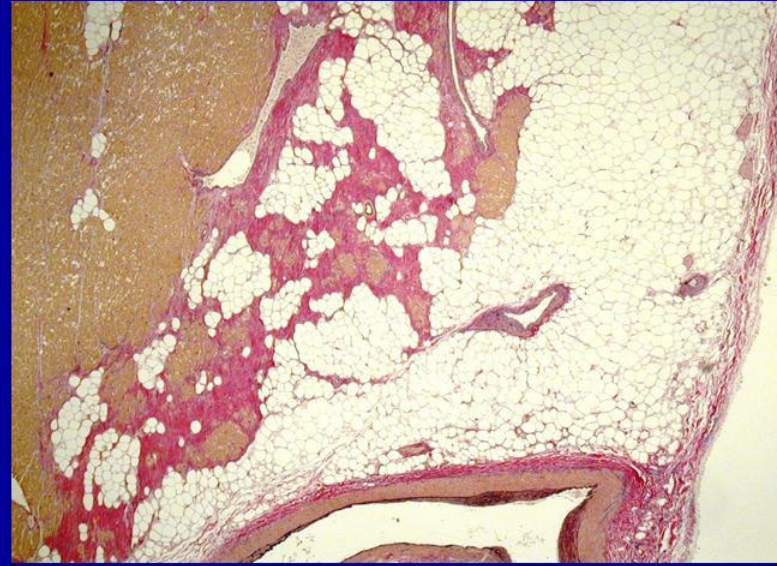
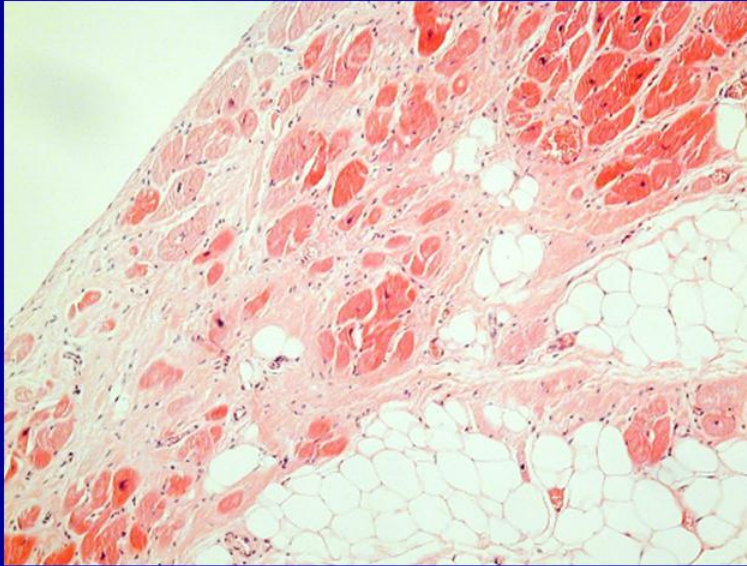


# Histopathology in the right

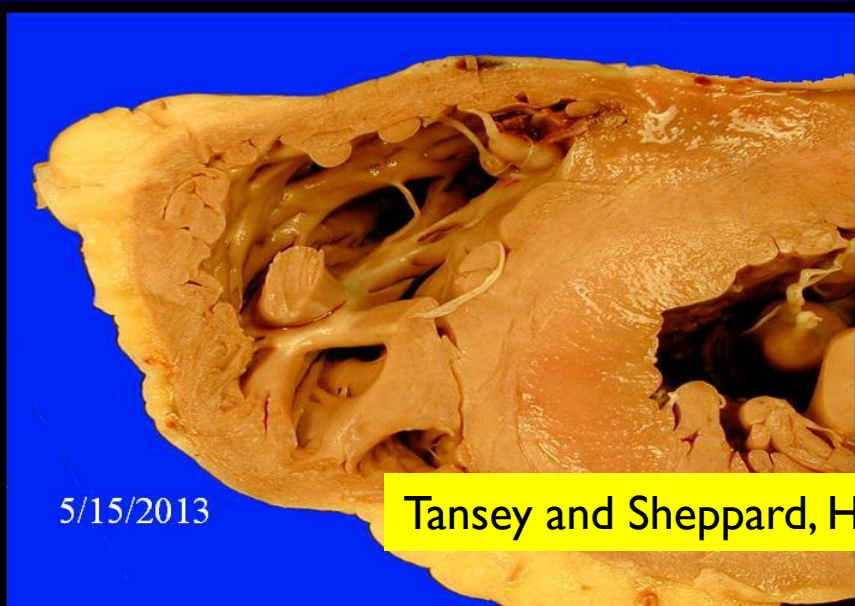
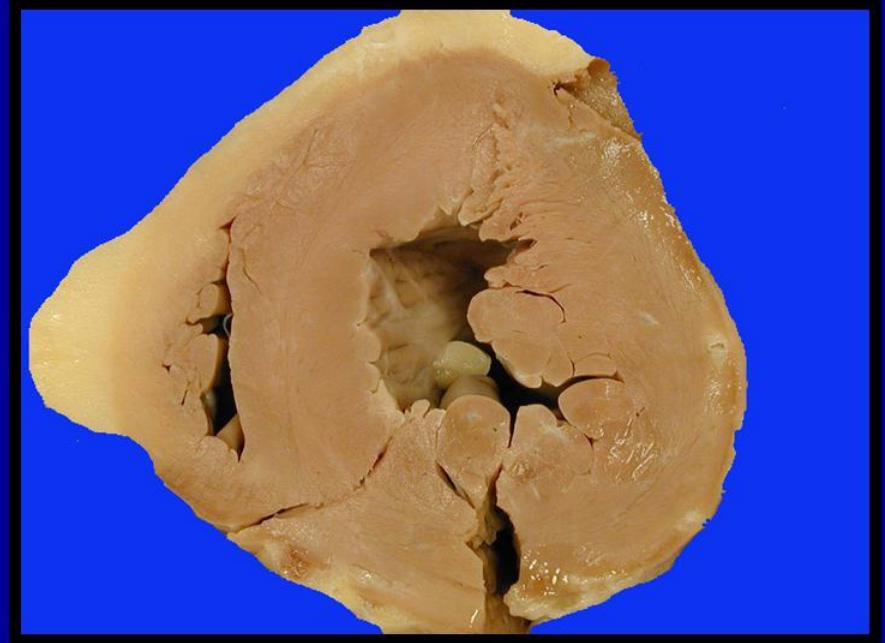
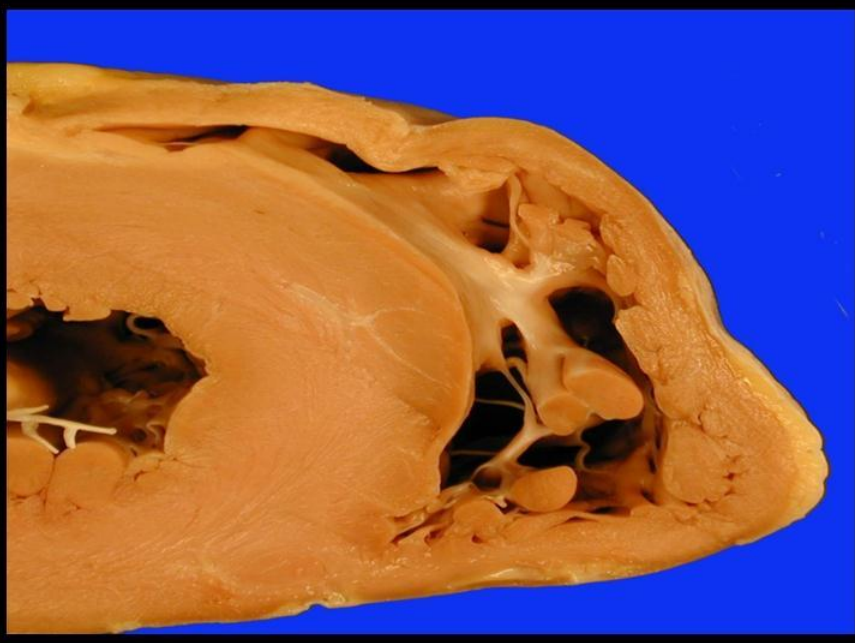




# Histopathology in the left



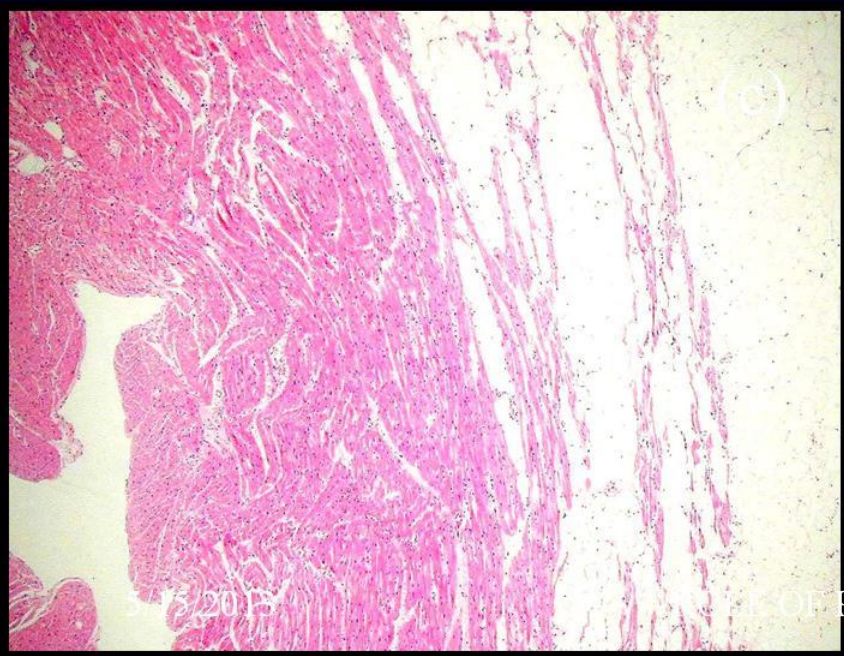
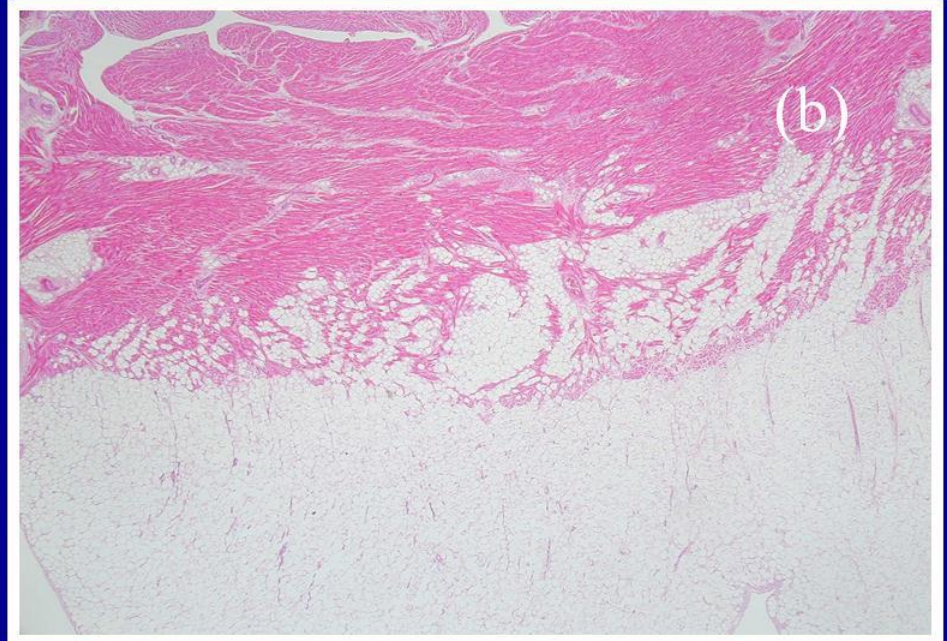
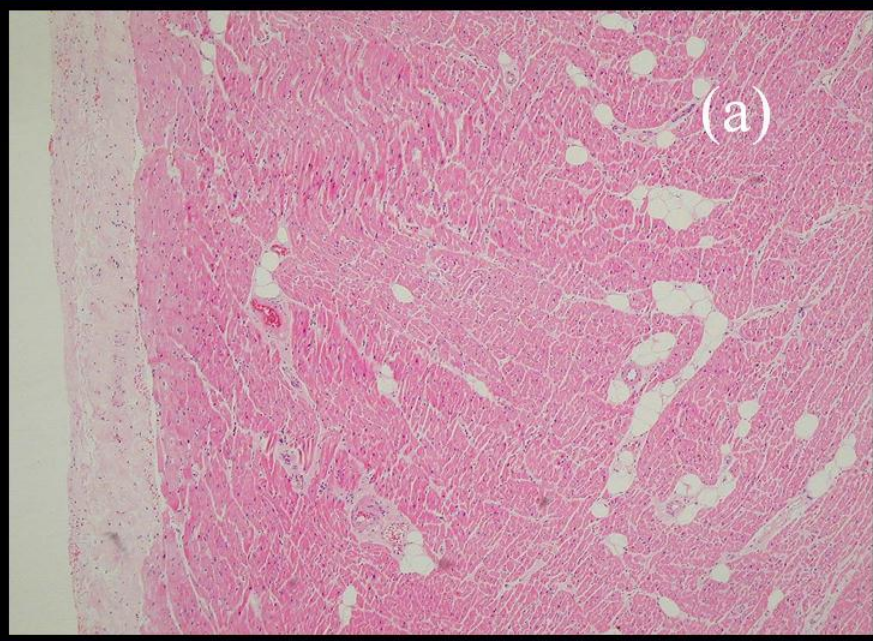




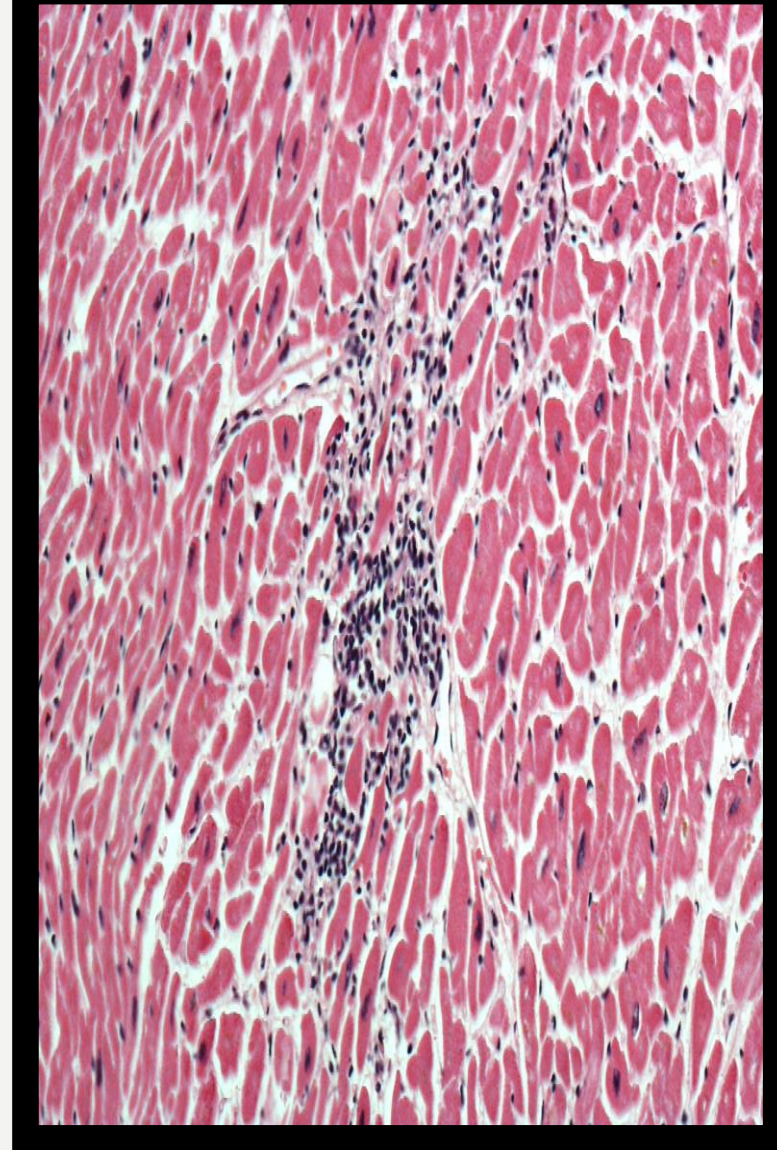
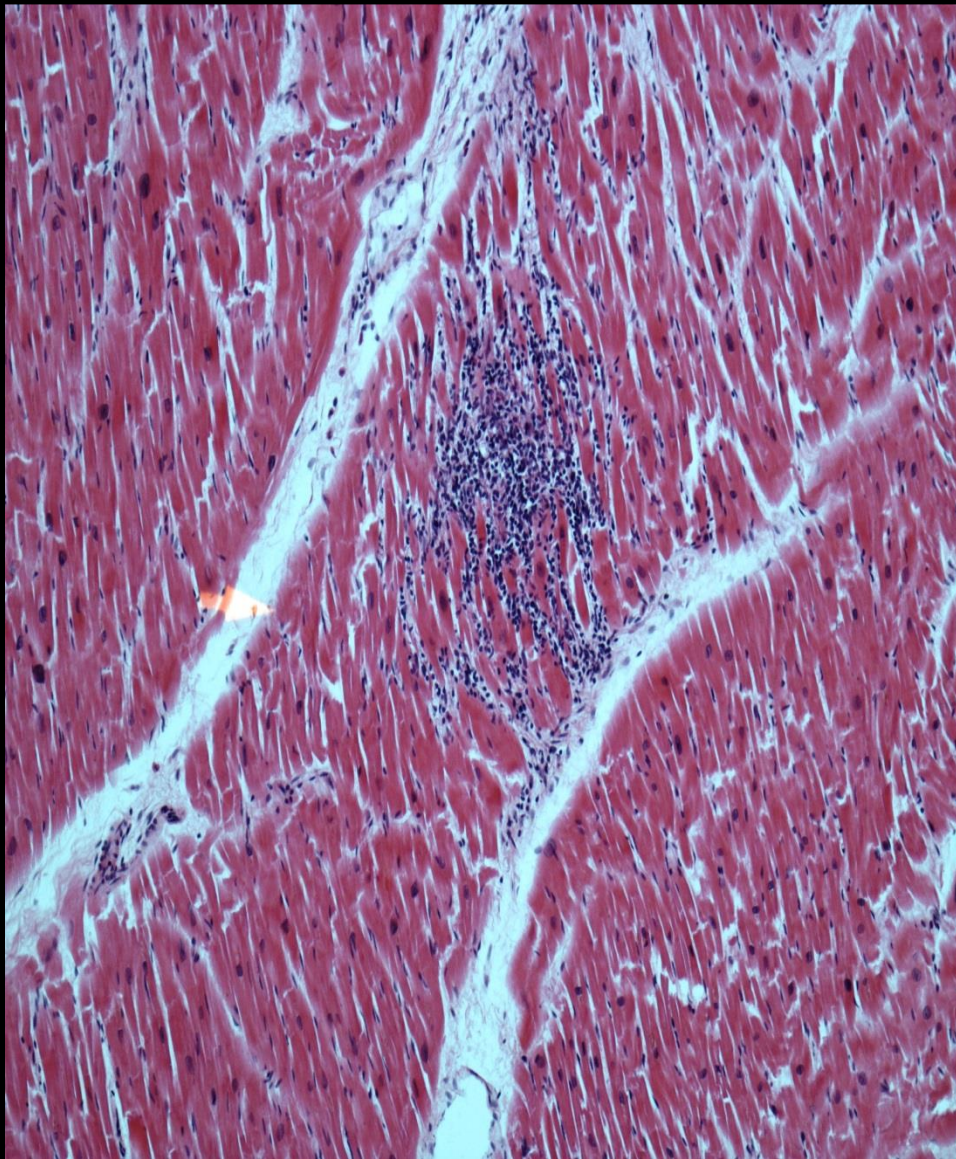
5/15/2013

Tansey and Sheppard, Histopathology 2007

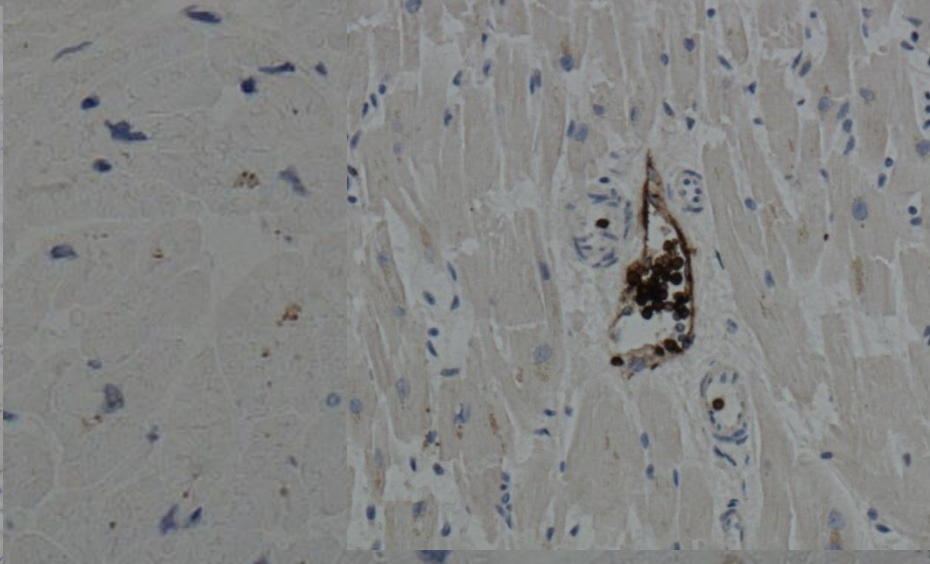
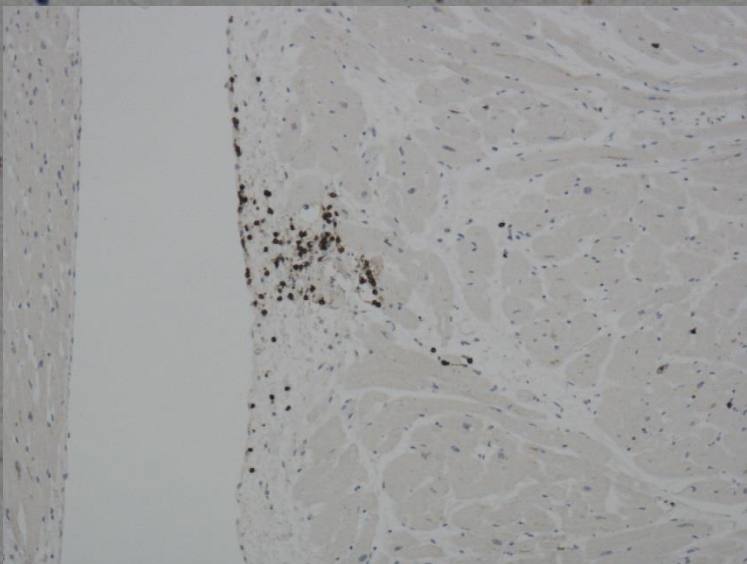
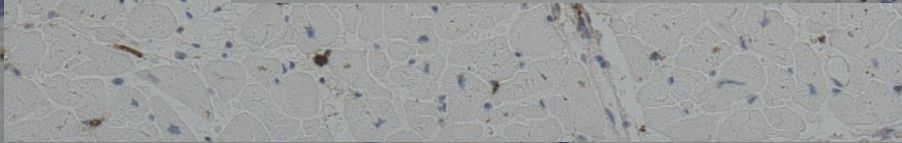
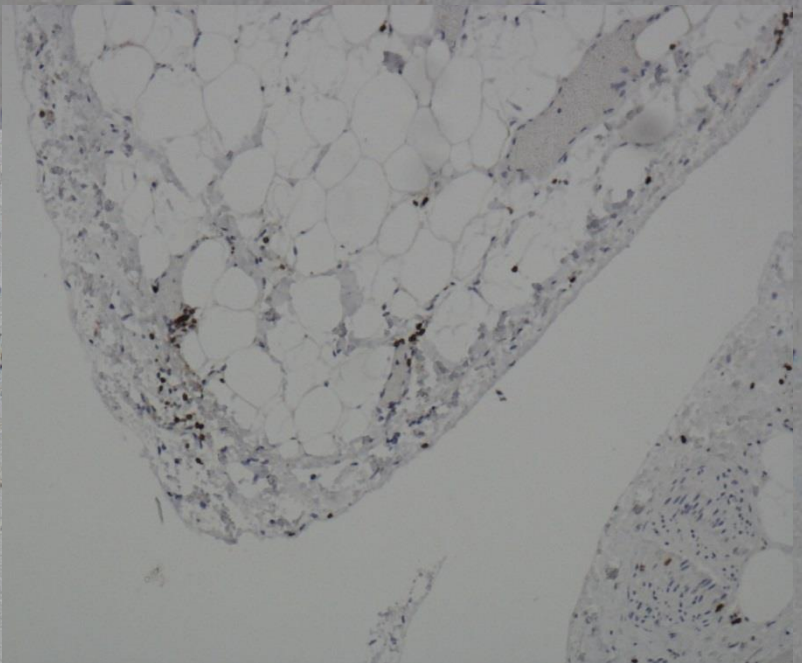
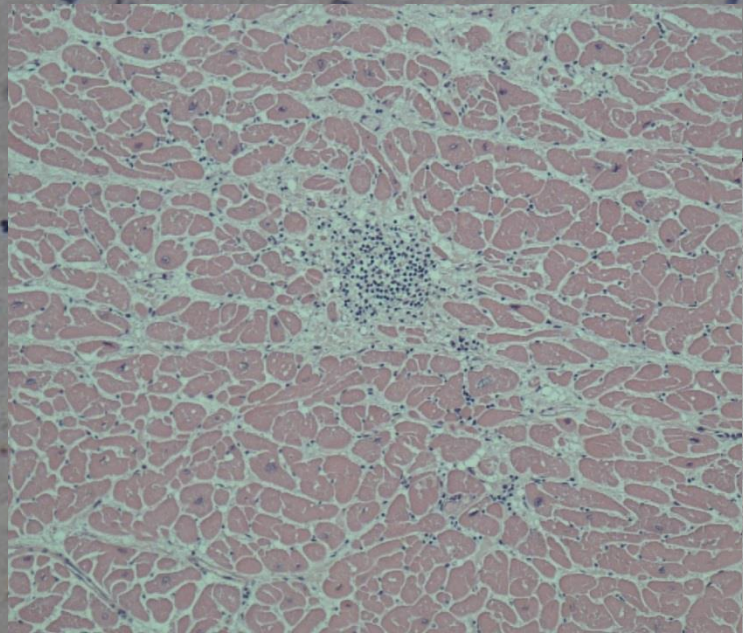






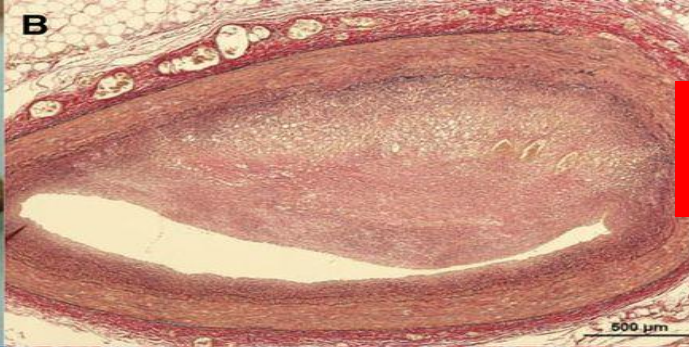
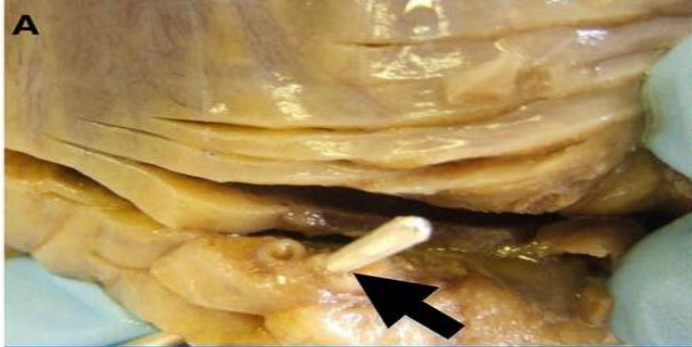






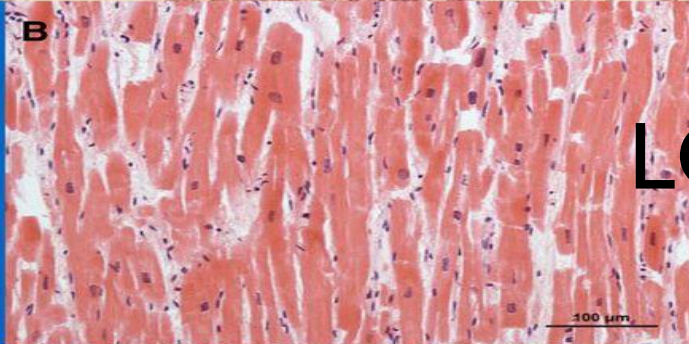
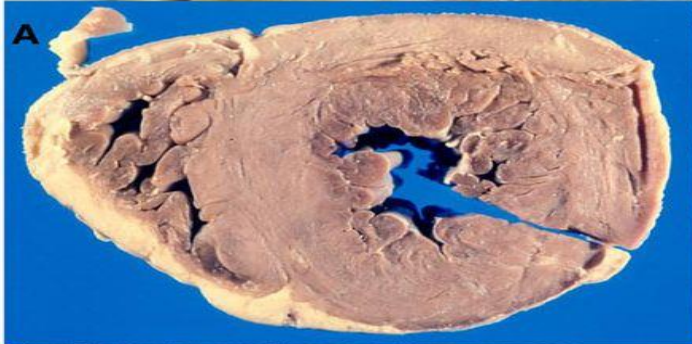


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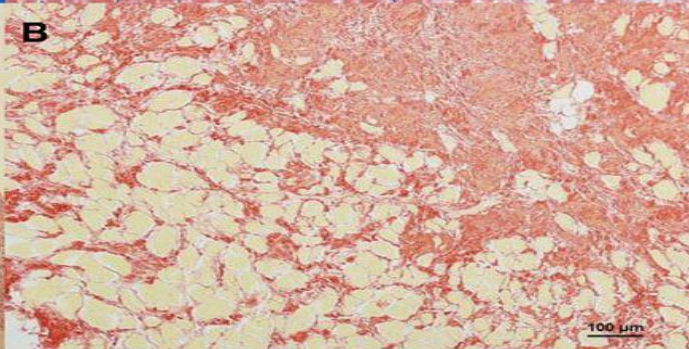
**BRUGADA**  
 primary artery in an

2



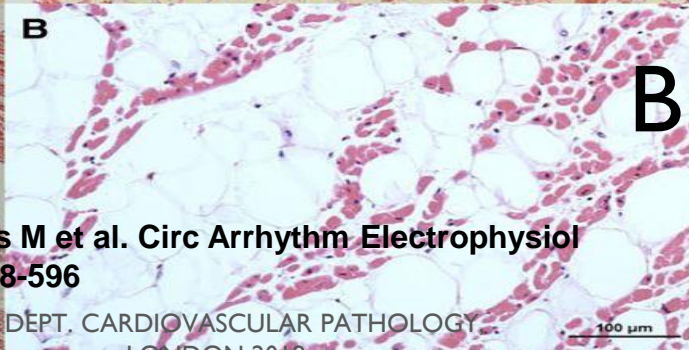
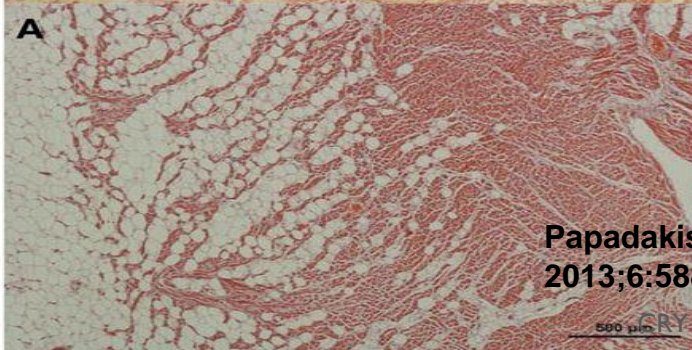
**LONG QT**

3



**BRUGADA**

4



**BRUGADA**

Papadakis M et al. *Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol*  
 2013;6:588-596

DEPT. CARDIOVASCULAR PATHOLOGY  
 LONDON 2018

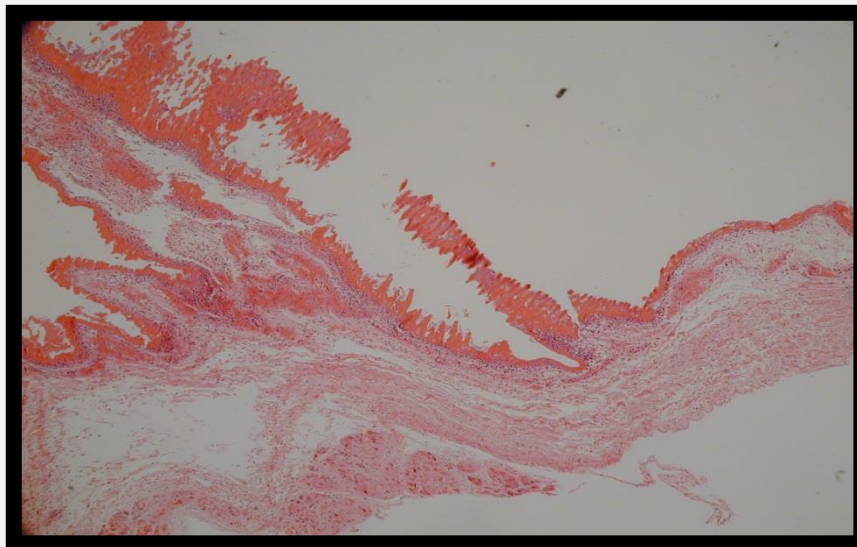
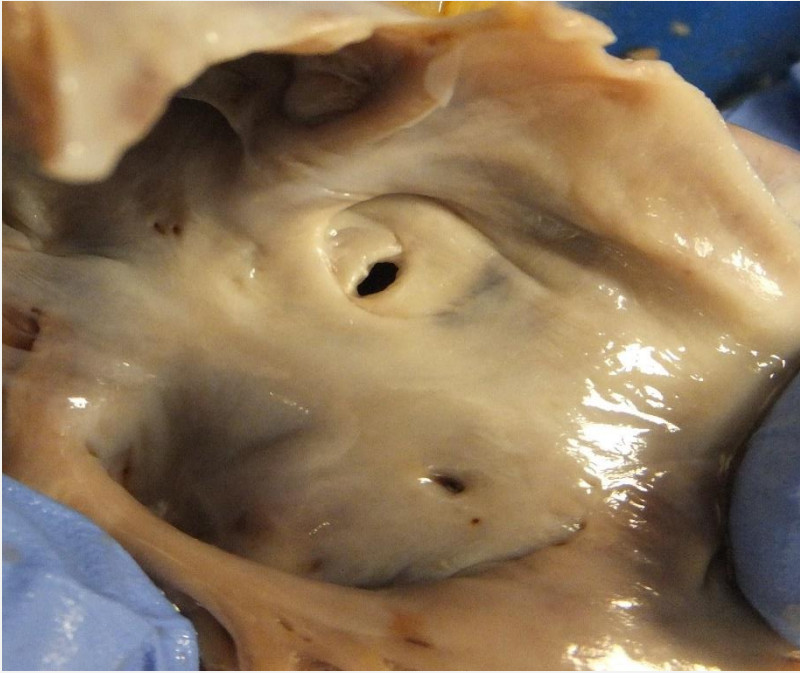
American Heart Association   
 Learn and Live



A cross-section of a heart specimen, likely a rat or mouse, showing significant hypertrophy and pathological changes. The heart is placed on a ruler for scale. A red text box is overlaid on the heart, listing several conditions: Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy – Mutations of Troponin T especially Myocarditis/sarcoidosis Idiopathic Fibrosis Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy. The heart shows a thickened wall and a dilated right ventricle. The ruler below the heart shows centimeter markings from 1 to 10, with millimeter markings. The text 'DEVON INDUSTRIES, INC.' and '1-800-DEVON' is visible on the ruler.

**Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy – Mutations of Troponin T especially Myocarditis/sarcoidosis Idiopathic Fibrosis Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy**





**PULMONARY VEIN  
ISOLATION WITH ABLATION  
VIA TRANSEPTAL ROUTE  
FOR ATRIAL FIBRILLATION**



Gods Win  
JULY 9th  
1600  
HAND CRAFTED  
WITH PRIDE  
IN LONDON

