

Small Group Session II - Case 3

A 60 year old man with a history of hypertension and coronary artery disease was incidentally found to have a 4 cm mass in his abdomen on palpation. The mass was pulsatile. Further clinical workup was recommended, but the patient refused. Several weeks later the patient complained of the sudden onset of severe abdominal pain. He collapsed and died before reaching medical attention.

Instructions:

The image of the gross specimen provided to you shows changes that might be expected in this case. Your assignment is to answer the following questions, working as a team. Refer to Robbins for verification of your responses.

Task 1. Can you identify the blood vessel in this specimen? If possible, name the branches that are present (note: the blood vessel has been cut open lengthwise)



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Task 2. Look carefully at the contours of the opened vessel wall. Is there an area that is different (dilated/wider) from the rest? What is the pathologic term for this?

Task 3. The vessel contains a clot. What is the appropriate pathologic term for a clot within a vessel? What is the term used for a clot that is in the body but outside of a vessel?

Task 4. What do you notice about the cut surface of the clot? What do the lamellated lines represent?

Task 5. Look carefully at the intimal (endothelial) lining of the vessel. Does it appear smooth? What is wrong with it? Be descriptive. Do you know what this represents?

Task 6. List three pathogenetic factors that favor the formation of clot in a vessel. Which of these factors is/are likely at play in this case?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Task 7. If this clot dislodged, where would it go? What would happen as a result?

Task 8. What do you think happened to the patient in this case? What caused the sudden onset of pain, and why did he die?