# XV. Diseases of the Cardiovascular System 145

Syphilis	(localized tertiary stage lesion)
Heart:	Shows a gumma
The gumma:	In the interventricular septum
	Rounded
	Yellowish-brownish-white
	Rubber-like

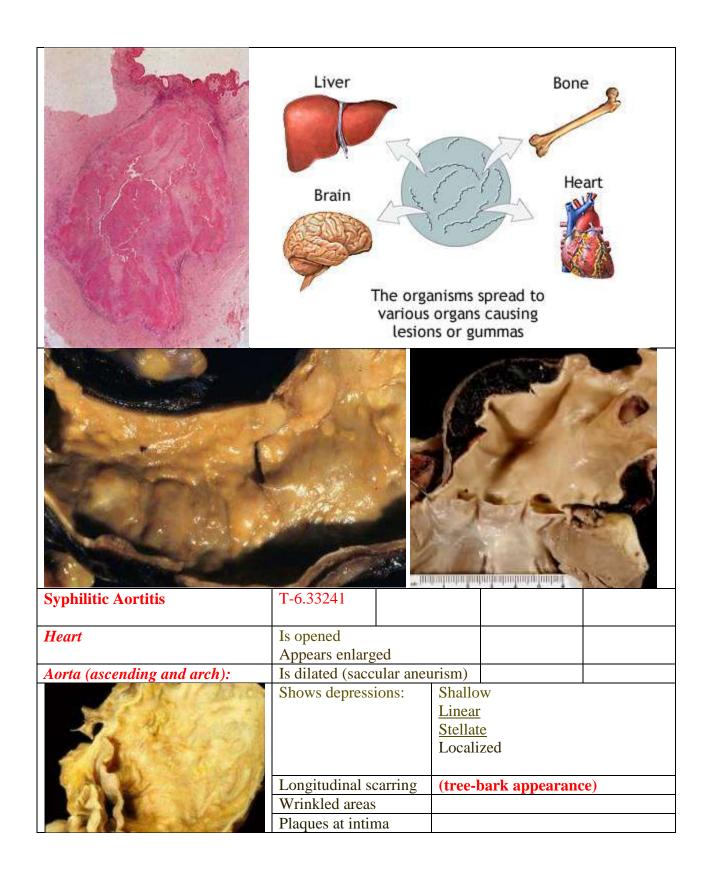
## **N.B.:**

- Gumma of the myocardium is a rare condition.
- It appears in the upper part of the inter-ventricular septum.
- It is usually small in size and rubbery in consistence.
- It may interrupt the conduction-bundle and cause heart block.



Figure 64
Nature Syphilitic Aneurism of Aorta
Specimen No. 1-6.33242
Reference P. 146

Figure 65
Nature Aneurism Perforating in Lung
Specimen No. 1-6.33242 a
Reference P. 147



Plaques	Raised
	Irregular
	Semi-translucent
	Greyish-white (pearly grey)
	Some are coalescing into larger
	ones

#### *N.B.*:

## In the tertiary stage, syphilis affects the aorta in its ascending part and at the arch. *The characteristics of syphilitic aortitis are :*

- 1. The aorta becomes more adherent to the mediastinal structures particularly the pulmonary artery.
- 2. The cut edge of the aorta becomes distinctly thickened.
- 3. The intima shows elevated patches: Pale, pearly-white and smooth.
- 4. Later on the patches become: Ivory-like, irregular, pitted and scarred.
- 5. The intervening tissue appears wrinkled and crinkled forming linear corrugations.
- 6. There are, as well, fine transverse wrinkling due to stellate scars.
- 7. The syphilitic changes usually stop abruptly after the arch of aorta.
- 8. The syphilitic lesions usually show
  - No fatty patches,
  - No calcification and
  - **No ulceration** (D.D. atheroma).
- 9. No extension to the coronary blood vessels although the swelling of the intima may narrow the openings (mouths) of the coronary arteries.

## 10. The aortic valve in syphilis may show:

- Normal appearance (frequently).
- Widening of commissures.
- Cord-like thickening of the free edge of the cusps (rolled).
- Retraction of the cusps (sclerosis), producing syphilitic endocarditis. .

: