

XV. Diseases of the Cardiovascular System


Angiomyxoma		1-2. 822		
Heart		Is opened		
Left auricle and ventricle:		Contain a mass		
The mass	Size:	About 3 cm. in diameter		
	Shape:	Rounded Finely-lobulated (mamillated)		
	Capsule:	Thin Incomplete		
	Surface:	Translucent (in parts) Gelatinous (in parts)		
	Colour:	Reddish-brown Haemorrhagic (in parts)		
	Consistence:	Soft		
	Appearance:	Pedunculated Homogeneous and glistening Arising from wall of left auricle Projecting into left ventricle through the mitral orifice		

Figure 42

Nature Angiomyxoma

Specimen No. 1-2.522

Reference P. 127

N.B.:***This is a very rare tumour.***

- *In fact all tumours of the heart are rarely-encountered.*
- *It is not a mural thrombus because it is glistening.*
- *It is not a post-mortem clot because it is adherent to the wall.*
- *Histologically, it proved to be "Angiomyxoma".*

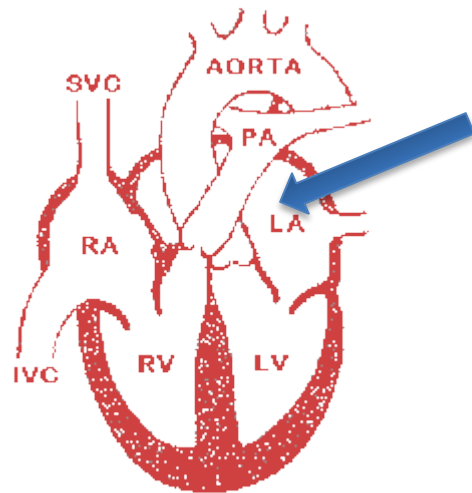
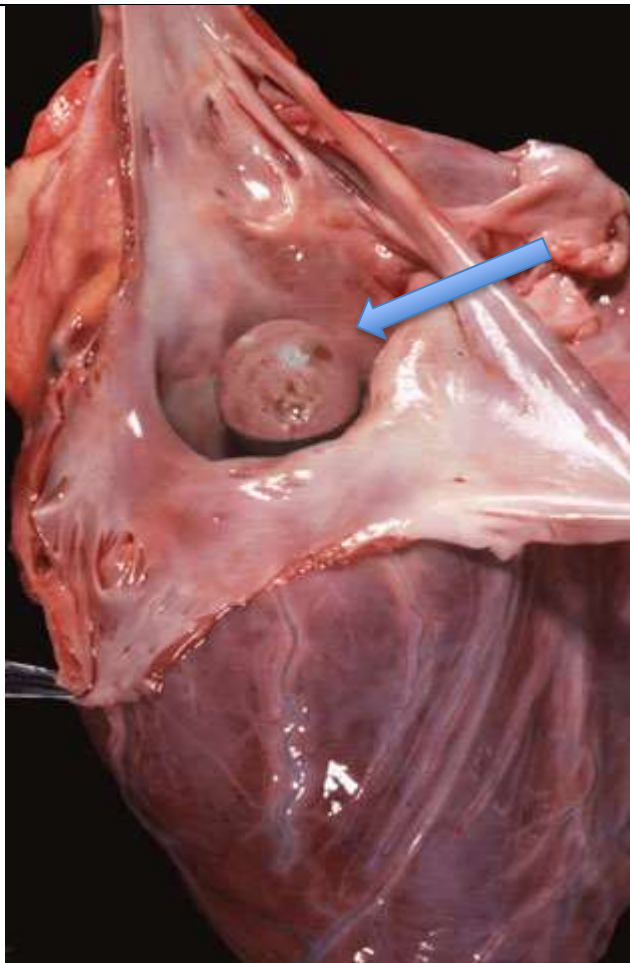
Tumours of the heart are all rare whether primary or secondary; and, benign or malignant.

They include

- Myxoma,
- Fibroma,
- Lipoma,
- Angioma,
- Rhabdomyoma,
- Teratoma,
- Sarcoma, and
- Mesothelioma.

Secondaries in heart are due to

- Malignant melanoma,
- Carcinoma of lung, breast, oesophagus or bladder and
- Mediastinal tumours.



- The left atrium has been opened to reveal the most common primary cardiac neoplasm--an atrial **myxoma**.
- These benign masses are most often attached to the atrial wall, but can arise on a valve or in a ventricle.
- They **can produce a "ball valve" effect** by intermittently occluding the atrioventricular valve orifice.
- Embolization of fragments of tumor may also occur.
- Myxomas are easily diagnosed by echocardiography.
- They may also be seen with chest CT scan and with magnetic resonance angiography.



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