Intracoronary Embolization of the Coating Polymer on a Cardiovascular Device

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A 79-year-old man was admitted to the hospital for acute inferior myocardial infarction. Stent deployment into the tortuous right coronary artery was attempted; however, the procedure was unsuccessful. Nine days after the first trial, stent implantation into the right coronary artery was successfully performed. During the subsequent procedure for stent implantation into the left anterior descending artery, strong friction was felt between the intravascular medical device and the stenotic artery. Although the procedure was uneventful, with no significant elevation of cardiac enzymes, the patient suddenly and unexpectedly died from an unspecified cause on the ninth day after surgery. An autopsy showed in-

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inferior transluminal and anterolateral subendocardial myocardial infarction and the presence of basophilic amorphous filamentous foreign material (Picture, arrows) coupled with an inflammatory giant cell response (Picture, arrowheads), although no stent thrombosis was detected. Embolization of the coating on devices may occur during various intravascular procedures (1, 2); thus, physicians should be aware of this potentially life-threatening phenomenon.

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References