

EMBOLISM:

• An embolus is a detached intravascular solid, liquid, or gaseous mass that is carried by the blood to a site distant from its point of origin

• 99% due to dislodged thrombus

- Types:
- 1. Thromboembolism
- 2. Fat embolism
- 3. Air embolism
- 4. Nitrogen embolism
- 5. Cholesterol embolism
- 6. Amniotic fluid embolism

- Emboli result in partial or complete vascular occlusion.
- The consequences of thromboembolism include ischemic necrosis (*infarction*) of downstream tissue

Embolus derived from a lower extremity deep venous thrombosis and now impacted in a pulmonary artery branch



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PULMONARY THROMBOEMBOLISM

- 95% originate from deep veins of L.L
- Saddle embolus: at bifurcation of Pulmonary artery
- Paradoxical embolus: Passage of an embolus from venous to systemic circulation through IAD, IVD

CLINICAL CONSEQUENCE OF PULMONARY

- THROMBOEMBOLISM :
- Most pulmonary emboli (60% to 80%) are clinically silent because they are small
- a. Organization: 60 80 %
- **b.** Pulmonary infarction
- c. Sudden death, Right ventricle failure, CV collapse when more than 60 % of pulmonary vessels are obstructed.
- d. Pumonary hemorrhage: obstruction of medium sized arteries.
- e. Pulmonary Hypertension and right ventricular failure due to multiple emboli over a long time.

Systemic thromboembolism

 Emboli traveling within the arterial circulation
80% due to intracardiac mural thrombi 2/3 Lt. ventricular failure
¼ Lt. atrial dilatation Ulcerated atherosclerotic plaque, Aortic aneurysm valvular regetation

- The major targets are:
- 1. Lower limbs 75%
- 2. Brain 10%
- 3. Intestine
- 4. Kidneys
- 5. Spleen

• Fat embolism

- Causes
- 1. Skeletal injury (fractures of long bones)
- 2. Adipose tissue Injury
- Mechanical obstruction is exacerbated by free fatty acid release from the fat globules, causing local toxic injury to endothelium.
- In skeletal injury, fat embolism occurs in 90% of cases, but only 10% or less have clinical findings
- Fat embolism syndrome is characterized by
- A. Pulmonary Insufficiency
- **B.** Neurologic symptoms
- C. Anemia
- D. Thrombocytopenia
- E. Death in 10% of the case
- Symptoms appears 1-3 days after injury

Tachypnea, Dyspnea, Tachycardia and Neurological symptoms

• Air Embolism

- causes:
- 1. Obstetric procedures
- 2. Chest wall injury
- 3. Decompression sickness: in Scuba and deep-sea divers ((nitrogen))
- More then 100ml of air is required to produce clinical effect.
- Clinical consequence
- 1. **Painful joints**: due to rapid formation of gas bubbles within Sk. Muscles and supporting tissues.
- 2. Focal ischemia in brain and heart
- 3. Lung edema, Hemorrhage, atelectasis, emphysema, which all lead to Respiratory distress. (chokes)
- 4. *caisson disease*: gas emboli in the bones leads to multiple foci of ischemic necrosis, usually the heads of the femurs, tibias, and humeri

oAmniotic fluid embolism

- Mortality Rate = 20%-40%
- Uncommon complication of labor
- due to infusion of amniotic fluid into maternal circulation via tears in placental membranes and rupture of uterine veins.
- sudden severe dyspnea, cyanosis, and hypotensive shock, followed by seizures, DIC and coma
- Finding:

Squamous cells, languo hair, fat, mucinetc within the pulmonary microcirculation

INFARCTION

- An infarct is an area of ischemic necrosis caused by occlusion of either the arterial supply or the venous drainage in a particular tissue
- Nearly 99% of all infarcts result from thrombotic or embolic events
- other mechanisms include: local vasospasm, expansion of an atheroma, extrinsic compression of a vessel (e.g., by tumor); vessel twisting (e.g., in testicular torsion or bowel volvulus; and traumatic vessel rupture

MORPHOLOGY OF INFARCTS

- infarcts may be either red (hemorrhagic) or white (anemic) and may be either septic or bland
- All infarcts tend to be wedge shaped, with the occluded vessel at the apex and the periphery of the organ forming the base
- The margins of both types of infarcts tend to become better defined with time
- The dominant histologic characteristic of infarction is **ischemic coagulative necrosis**
- most infarcts are ultimately replaced by scar. The brain is an exception, it results in liquefactive necrosis

RED INFARCTS:

- o occur in
- (1) venous occlusions (such as in ovarian torsion)
- (2) loose tissues (like lung) that allow blood to collect in the infarcted zone;
- (3) tissues with dual circulations (lung and small intestine),
- (4) previously congested tissues because of sluggish venous outflow
- (5) when flow is re-established to a site of previous arterial occlusion and necrosis

WHITE INFARCTS

- occur with:
- 1) arterial occlusions
- 2) solid organs (such as heart, spleen, and kidney).

Septic infarctions

- occur when bacterial vegetations from a heart valve embolize or when microbes seed an area of necrotic tissue.
- the infarct is converted into an **abscess**, with a correspondingly greater inflammatory response



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Red and white infarcts. A→lung B→spleen



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kidney infarct , now replac ed by a large fibroti c scar

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFARCT

- nature of the vascular supply
- *rate of development of the occlusion* (collateral circulation)
- o vulnerability to hypoxia
- Neurons undergo irreversible damage → 3 to 4 minutes of ischemia.
- Myocardial cells die after only 20 to 30 minutes of ischemia
- the oxygen content of blood