Catastrophic ascending aortic graft thrombosis

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A 72-year old man with an unspecified hypercoagulable disorder and prior Dacron™ graft replacement of the ascending aorta, and arch presented with a myocardial infarction. A computed tomography (CT) scan demonstrated a partially thrombosed aortic graft with no ‘kinking’ (Figs 1 and 2). Clinically, there was no evidence of graft infection. Unfortunately, the patient expired and autopsy was declined.

Figure 1: Transverse contrast-enhanced chest CT scan revealed an extensive, near-occlusive thrombus of the ascending aorta involving the aortic graft (arrow). The presence of a thrombus in the superior vena cava is also suggested.

Figure 2: Sagittal contrast-enhanced chest CT scan revealed an extensive, near-occlusive thrombus of the ascending aorta involving the aortic graft (arrow).