CODE: T4200 M3447/1

ID NOS; HX53346 A8500

DIAGNOSIS: DISSECTING AORTIC ANEURYSM IN MARFAN'S SYNDROME

CLINICAL HISTORY: M/42. This man was known to have Marfan's syndrome, of which there was a strong family history. He developed intractable congestive cardiac failure some months prior to death, and it was thought that a limited dissecting aneurysm had occurred.

MACROSCOPIC: The heart is enlarged with ventricular (particularly left) hypertrophy and dilatation. There is a large opened cystic space in the centre of the specimen which originally contained blood clot, and represents a dissecting aneurysm. The original inner layer of the aorta is partly enclosed in the cystic cavity, with the aortic valve visible within the lumen of the aorta. Although not displayed in this specimen, the original tear in the intima was shown to be about 1cm distal to the aortic valve and blood had re-entered the lumen in the region of the arch. The smooth surface of the dissection suggests that it is covered by endothelium and that the original blowout occurred at least some months after death.

MICROSCOPIC: This section is stained with an elastic stain. The elastic of the aortic wall shows no abnormality (top right) and the wall of the dissection (left) is smooth and covered by endothelium.