

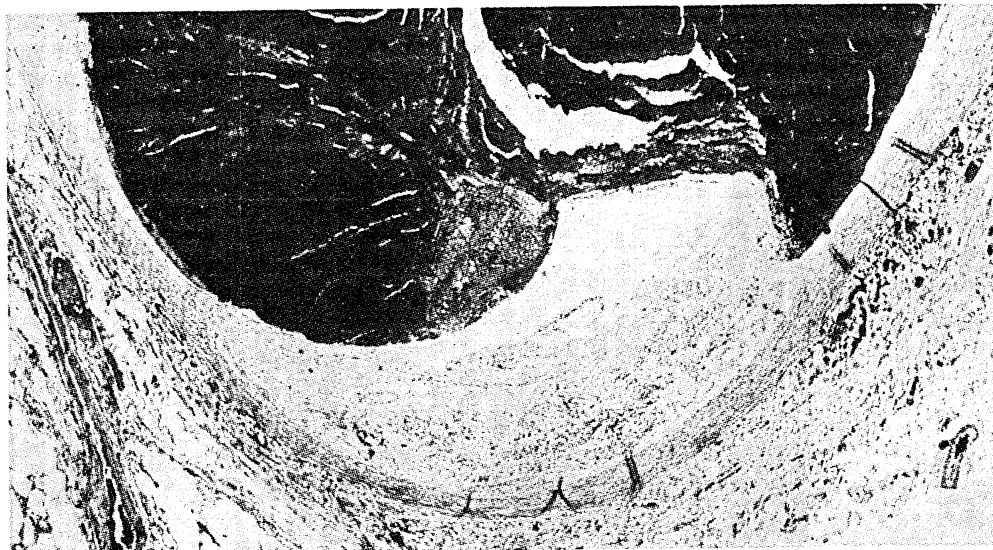


Fig 1.—Pulmonary artery. Organized and vascularized base of thrombus in lower field. Organizing component above center of this base. Remainder of thrombus is laminated, recent (AFIP Neg 69-1713; Movat, reduced from $\times 13$).

taken by two women had strong estrogenic and weak progestational effect.

There was no apparent relationship between the type of oral contraceptive taken and the development of thromboembolism.

Pathologic Findings

Gross.—Thrombi and associated lesions of the vascular wall were widely distributed in these patients. They were found in the pulmonary, systemic, and portal circulations, in arteries and veins, and in vessels of large, medium, and small caliber. Thrombi were limited to the pulmonary artery in nine patients; in eight, they were found in the pulmonary artery and in the pelvic, iliac, hypogastric, or leg veins. They were limited to the mesenteric vein, temporal artery, and hepatic vein in one patient each.

Microscopic. — *Vascular Changes.* — Three types of intrinsic vascular lesions were identified in these patients:

1. Three-layered thrombi with underlying structural and histochemical changes in the vessel wall, found in 19 instances.
2. Endothelial proliferation and intimal thickening, with no changes in the media or adventitia, found in four patients.
3. Focal nodular thickening of the intima, media, and adventitia, found in only one instance.



Fig 2.—Higher magnification of portion of Fig 1. Organized, collagenized, and vascularized base of thrombus above arterial wall. At top center, darker area of organizing layer. Top left, fresh and unorganized portion of thrombus (AFIP Neg 69-1725; Movat, reduced from $\times 42$).

In the first type (Fig 1 to 4), the thrombi usually included three layers: an adherent and organized base with revascularization, collagenization, and in some instances hemosiderin-laden macrophages; over this a zone of fibrin with ingrowth of fibroblasts; and a superficial layer of recent laminated thrombus without evidence of organization. The latter usually formed the bulk of the intraluminal mass and was