

## Images in clinical medicine



# A rapid adjunct to the postmortem diagnostic workup for right ventricular dysplasia

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## A rapid adjunct to the postmortem diagnostic workup for right ventricular dysplasia

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## Image in medicine

Right ventricular dysplasia (RVD) is characterized by fibrofatty replacement of the myocardium of the right ventricle. An observation that has been put forward for immediate postmortem opinion is that transillumination of the thinned myocardium could yield a suspicion for RVD as could be seen in this case of a young female college student who ingested a high dose of anti-depressive medication and who was first thought of suicidal attempt (A, B). The postmortem toxicological analysis was also negative for any lethal dose of medication. RVD or its synonym arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) was included in the 1995

classification of cardiomyopathies of the World Health Organization but was recently proposed to

be included in a concept termed “arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy” (AC).



**Figure 1:** postmortem view of the right ventricle in a case of sudden death, with thinning and fatty replacement A) with remarkable positive transillumination B) due to the loss of the myocardial layer