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Supplementary material
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eMethods, eBoxes, eFigures, eTables:
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CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Heart of Darkness

Pathology specimen: metastatic melanoma in the myocardium and coronary arteries

A 72-year-old man was taken by ambulance to the emergency room after initially successful out-of-hospital cardiopulmonary resuscitation. On arrival, his vital signs were barely stable. He had no major known cardiovascular risk factors. A 12-lead EKG revealed an acute myocardial infarction, further interventions were unsuccessful, and he went into cardiogenic shock and died 90 minutes after arrival. The autopsy revealed the cause of the extensive myocardial infarction: neither ischemic cardiomyopathy nor a ruptured plaque in a coronary artery, but rather metastatic spread of a malignant, superficially spreading melanoma (Clark level IV) into the coronary circulation, leading to coronary arterial occlusion. The cancer had been diagnosed previously, but not its spread into the coronary vessels.

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Conflict of interest statement

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