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The Institute of Forensic Medicine at PUM in Szczecin has received a request to conduct research on histological material from the church of St. Hyacinth in Legnica. The material was provided by Dr. Barbara Engel and Fr. Andrzej Ziombra.

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CONCLUSIONS

- I. The material on the histopathological slides stained with hematoxylin and eosin as well as the material that was cut from the block were evaluated histopathologically. The results of the histopathological examinations indicate that the sample tissue fragment had undergone far-reaching autolytic changes. The preserved fragments of muscle fibers showed features of fragmentation. These features of fragmentation are very common in cardiac muscle, but are also found in skeletal muscle. The connective tissue elements showed a high degree of autolysis, but also constituted a structural element of both the heart and skeletal muscles.

- II. The histological image of the material shows a transverse striated muscle. The overall image on the histopathological slides is most similar to cardiac muscle in which the muscle fibers are fragmented. (See images)

The fragmentation of muscle fibers that occurs in the overload of cardiac muscle is often accompanied by the effects of myocardial hypoxia or ventricular fibrillation in the case of the myocardium; changes of this type in the case of cardiac muscle are

often accompanied by agony. All the material contained in the block and on the slides do not have any characteristics of specific species. Therefore, an attempt was made to determine the affiliated species and genetic profile.

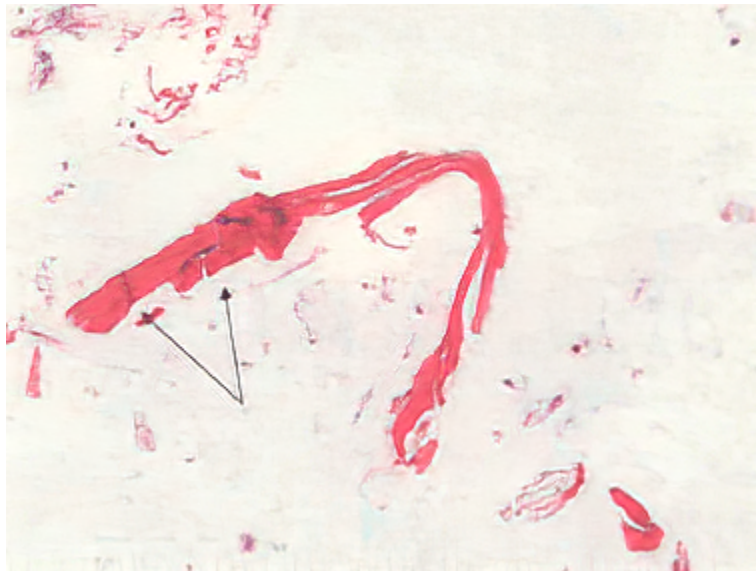


Fig. 1 Fragment of striated muscle fiber with visible fragmentation (ob. 40x)

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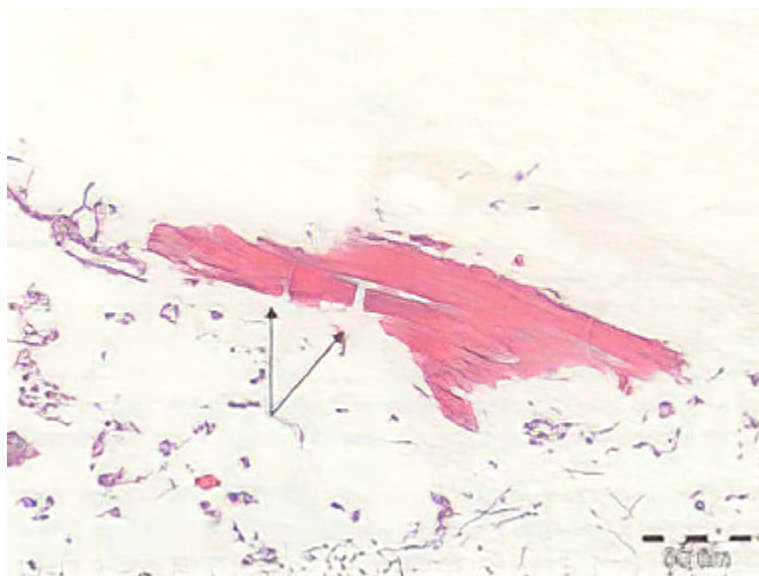


Fig. 3 Another piece of the material with visible fragmentation