

(c) **Asthenia:** This is because of lack of the heart muscle power to function in its normal way. The commonest cause being the Coronary Artery Disease where there is anaemia of the heart muscle.

Symptoms:

1. There is pallor of face or lips.
2. Skin is cold and clammy.
3. Sense of sinking and restlessness.
4. Pulse is weak and slow.
5. Giddiness dimness of vision
6. Convulsion--rare.

Post-Mortem Appearance: In Anemia from Haemorrhage both the chambers of the heart are empty. The heart muscle is contracted.

In Asthenia both the chambers of the heart may be full of blood on immediate examination. The other organs are pale.

ASPHYXIA

It is the respiratory system of the body which stops functioning first. The causes of asphyxial deaths are:

(a) Mechanical obstruction to the passages of respiratory tract by:

- (i) Mechanical pressure from outside such as strangulation and hanging.
- (ii) Foreign bodies.
- (iii) Inward blockage of the respiratory passages from structures such as tumours of the lungs compressing the main bronchus.
- (iv) Spasmodic oedemas of the glottis.

(b) Disease leading to respiratory distress such as:

- (i) Diphtheria
- (ii) Laryngeal oedema.
- (iii) Pulmonary Pneumonias.

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