Patent Arterial Duct and Pulmonary Hypertension

This greatly enlarged heart weighs 500 g. The right atrium is dilated and there is hypertrophy and dilation of both ventricles. Small congenital fenestrations can be seen near the commissures of the leaflets of the pulmonary valve. The aorta shows slight atheroma and there is a patent button-hole type patency of the arterial duct which presents as a round window 5 mm in diameter just distal to the prominent transverse ridge in the aortic arch. This opens into the left pulmonary artery and is best seen by looking downwards onto the specimen from the right posterior aspect.

This specimen was from a female of 39 years who died of congestive cardiac failure. She was known to have congenital heart disease.