39 year old fit and healthy bodybuilder died from sepsis as a result of bowel mucosa ischaemia.

Cocaine can cause non-obstructive mesenteric ischaemia presenting as:
- Acute mesenteric ischaemia
- Ischaemic colitis

Breakdown of the mucosal barrier can cause translocation of gut bacteria and resulting sepsis.

Learning Points:
- Cocaine should be considered an independent risk factor for sepsis
- Cocaine can cause ischaemic injury to the gut, myocardium, & spinal cord
- Bowel ischaemia usually presents with abdominal pain out of proportion to the findings on physical examination

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