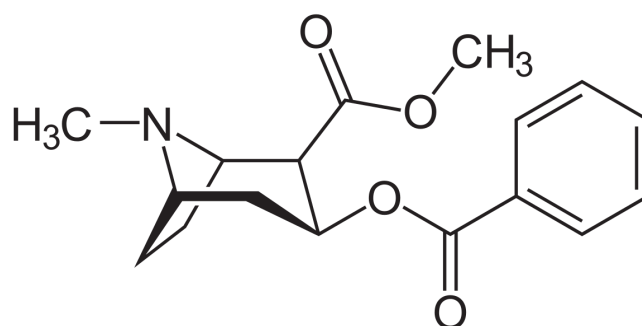


# COCAINE INDUCED BOWEL ISCHAEMIA



**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