

# 11. Pathology

## Clinico-pathological correlation

The Royal College of Pathologists<sup>42</sup> and NCEPOD increasingly have commented on the importance of the summary clinico-pathological correlation in an autopsy report. This enables a synoptic overview of the case, the diagnosis, the factors that lead to death, and resolution (if possible) of the issues raised by the death. In this sample 34% (15/44), had no such correlation in the report. In 24% (7/29) of cases where it was presented, it was judged unsatisfactory. Again, discussion and proper evaluation of the type of malignancy or of the significance of valvular vegetations were the most frequent basis for this assessment.