plausible mechanisms for venous air embolism exist. The authors have provided only indirect evidence for their proposed mechanism; therefore, the readers should exercise caution and await direct evidence before embracing this new hypothesis.

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Editorial commentary

The beautifully illustrated paper by Booth, Royal, and Allen contains some provocative concepts on the pathogenesis of lymphatic air embolism. For many years in the 1960s and 1970s at the Babies & Children's Hospital of New York the pe-

diatric pathologist Dr. William Blanc speculated on the lymphatic system as the route for air (gas) collections in the lung and in the bowel wall (as in NEC). The critical comments by Dr. Eric Effmann on the paper by Booth, Royal, and Allen

are published as well as the paper in order to provide a sounding ground. Such discussions in print are worthwhile as long as the truth is not totally known.

W. E. Berdon (Managing Editor)