Summary/learning points

- try to identify patients with chronic mesenteric ischaemia before acute deterioration occurs
- suspect in any patient with excess weight loss, normal gastrointestinal investigation and unexplained post-prandial pain
- mesenteric angiography is the next logical investigation
- despite a relatively high operative mortality, mesenteric revascularisation offers the only hope of survival and can return the gastrointestinal tract to normal

Box 3

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Medical Anniversary

REGINALD HALL, 1 October 1931

Reginald Hall (1931–94) was born and educated at Durham, where he qualified in 1956. He became an endocrinologist with a particular interest in the thyroid. He became a professor of medicine in Newcastle and then at the University of Wales, Cardiff (1979–89). He suffered cardiac amyloidosis for which he was given a cardiac transplant which kept him well for over 10 years. He died in Cardiff on 20 July 1994. — *DG James*