Question 65 – cardiology
A 55 year old man presents with acute pulmonary oedema. 5 years ago, he had undergone a mitral valve replacement with a bileaflet tilting disc valve (St Jude’s) for mixed mitral valve disease. He has been well with normal exercise tolerance prior to the day of admission.

Examination on admission reveals tachypnoea, sinus tachycardia 110/minute, BP 105/60 mmHg, elevated JVP +5cm and bilateral lung crepitations throughout. His INR is 1.9 (desired range 2.0 - 3.5). CUE are normal. The cardio-thoracic ratio on CXR is normal but the presence of APO is confirmed. TTE reveals that one of the prosthetic valve leaflets is not moving and there is increased flow rate in diastole across the valve orifice (2m/second).

What is the most appropriate course of action?

A. Administration of IV streptokinase
B. Administration of IV heparin
C. Administration of IV antibiotics
D. Addition of anti-platelet agent
E. Immediate mitral valve replacement

Answer: E