

# Case Conference

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## Discussion

# Pericardial Effusion

## Pericardial Effusion

- Acute pericarditis or in association with a variety of systemic disorders
- Nearly every pericardial disease can develop effusion

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## Etiology

- Acute idiopathic or viral pericarditis
- Purulent pericarditis
- Tuberculous pericarditis
- Post-MI or cardiac surgery
- Sharp or blunt chest trauma
- HIV infection
- Malignancy
- Autoimmune disease
- Selected drugs

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## Cause of Pericardial Disease

### Idiopathic

### Infections

- A. Viral - Coxsackievirus, echovirus, adenovirus, EBV, influenza, varicella, rubella, **HIV**, hepatitis B, mumps, parvovirus B19, vaccinia (smallpox vaccination)
- B. Bacterial - Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, Haemophilus, Neisseria, Chlamydia, Legionella, **tuberculosis**, Salmonella, Lyme disease
- C. Mycoplasma
- D. Fungal - Histoplasmosis, aspergillosis...
- E. Parasitic - Echinococcus, amebiasis, toxoplasmosis...
- F. Infective endocarditis with valve ring abscess

## Con't

### Radiation

### Neoplasm

- A. Metastatic
- B. Primary

### Cardiac

### Autoimmune

- A. Rheumatic diseases - lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis, scleroderma, mixed connective disease
- B. Other - Wegener's granulomatosis, polyarteritis nodosa, sarcoidosis ...

## Con't

### Drugs

- A. Procainamide, isoniazid, or hydralazine
- B. Other - cromolyn sodium, dantrolene, methysergide, anticoagulants, thrombolytics, phenytoin, penicillin, phenylbutazone, doxorubicin

### Metabolic

- A. Hypothyroidism - primarily pericardial effusion
- B. Uremia
- C. Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS)

## Approach

- Suspected from the history, ECG, and CXR
- All cases of acute pericarditis
- Unexplained persistent fever
- Hemodynamic change, especially post cardiac intervention

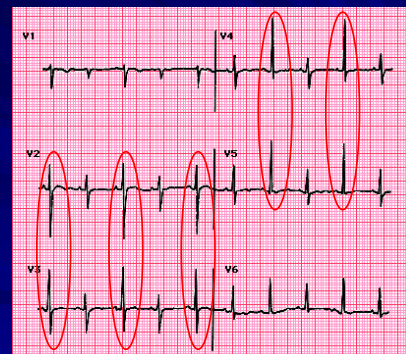
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## 1. The Presence of Effusion

- Physical : insensitive and nonspecific
- **Heart echo** : effusions exceeding 25 to 50 mL
- EKG :
  - Low QRS voltage :  $\leq 5$  mm (0.5 mV) in all of the limb leads
  - Electrical alternans
- Cardiac markers : may be elevated

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## Electrical Alternans



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## 2. The Hemodynamic Impact

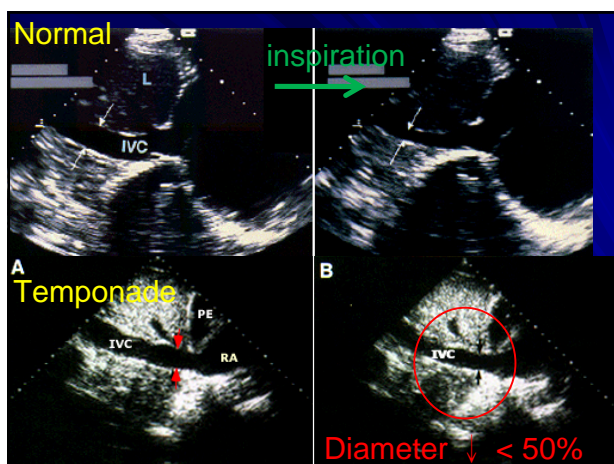
- The presence of cardiac tamponade ?
- Acute
  - Beck's triad : 1. JVE  
2. Hypotension  
3. Muffled heart sound
- Subacute
  - May be asymptomatic
  - Hypotension with a narrow pulse pressure, reflecting the limited stroke volume

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## Heart Echo

- Collapse of the right atrium at end-diastole and the right ventricle in early diastole
- Reciprocal changes in left and right ventricular volumes with respiration
- Dilation of the inferior vena cava and **less than a 50 percent reduction** in its diameter during inspiration, reflecting systemic congestion

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### 3. Find the Cause

- Base upon history and clinical findings
- The size of the effusion
- The presence or absence of tamponade
- Inflammatory signs
  - Characteristic chest pain
  - Pericardial friction rub
  - Fever  $>37^{\circ}\text{C}$
  - Diffuse ST segment elevation

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### Pericardiocentesis and Biopsy

- Culture
- Cytology
- Adenosine deaminase (for TB pericarditis)
- PCR
- Low sensitivity of WBC and Glu, Total protein and LDH

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### Treatment

- Treat underlying disease first unless hemodynamic unstable
- Volume resuscitation
- Pericardial fluid drainage for tamponade

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### Surgical Pericardiectomy

- Indication :
  - Fluid has reaccumulated
  - The effusion is loculated
  - Biopsy material is desired
  - The patient has a coagulopathy

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## TB Pericarditis

## Incidence

- Tuberculous pericarditis occurs in 1 to 2 percent of patients with pulmonary TB, US
- 7 percent of cases of cardiac tamponade in one study of Spain
- 6 percent of cases of constrictive pericarditis

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## Pathogenesis

- Reactivation disease
- Extension of infection from the lung or tracheobronchial tree, adjacent lymph nodes, spine, or sternum, or via miliary spread
- 50 percent of patients : symptoms **resolve** without treatment over a two to four week period

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## 4 Stages

- The dry stage
- The effusive stage
- The absorptive phase
- The constrictive phase

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## Clinical Manifestations

- Cough — 94 percent
- Dyspnea — 88 percent
- Chest pain — 76 percent
- Night sweats — 56 percent
- Orthopnea — 53 percent
- Weight loss — 48 percent

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## Physical Findings

- Fever
- Tachycardia
- Pleural dullness
- Increased jugular venous pressure
- Hepatomegaly
- Ascites
- Peripheral edema

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## CXR

- Concurrent **pulmonary TB** is an inconsistent but potentially important finding in patients with tuberculous pericarditis
- 72 percent of 198 cases in one report
- 32 percent of 19 cases in another

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## EKG

- Low voltage QRS
- Inverted T
- Eelectrical alternans

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## Diagnosis

- Tuberculin test : PPD skin test
- Pericardiocentesis
  - WBC : 700 to 54000/mL (average 7800/mL)
  - Acid-Fast stain and culture
  - TB-PCR
  - Adenosine deaminase (ADA) levels > 40 U/L
- Biopsy
- Cytology

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## Treatment

- Four combine therapy for 8 weeks
  - Isoniazid
  - Rifampin
  - Pyrazinamide
  - Ethambutol
- Then INH + Rifampin for at least 18 weeks

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Thanks for your  
listening !

