Myocarditis and Pericarditis

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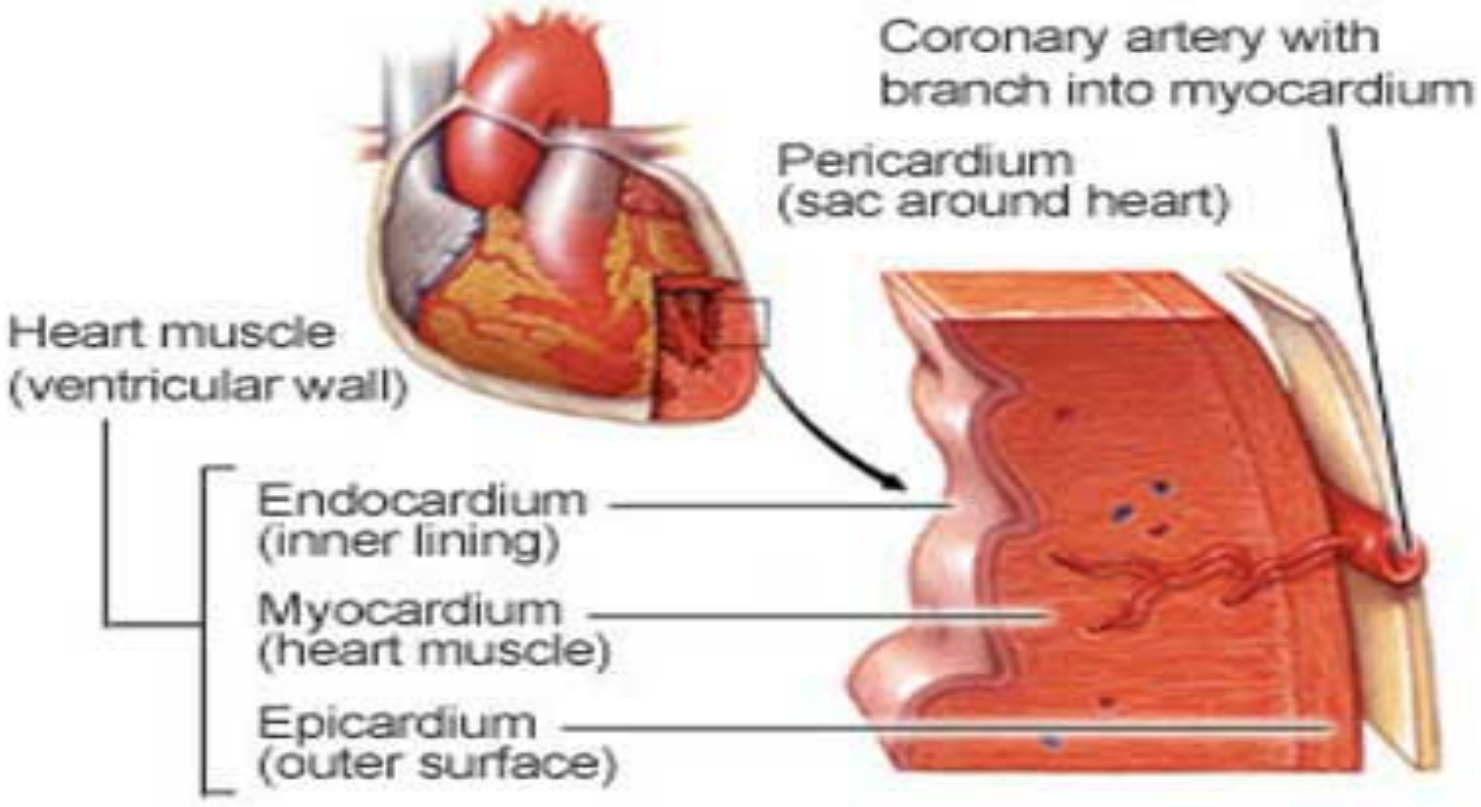
Objectives

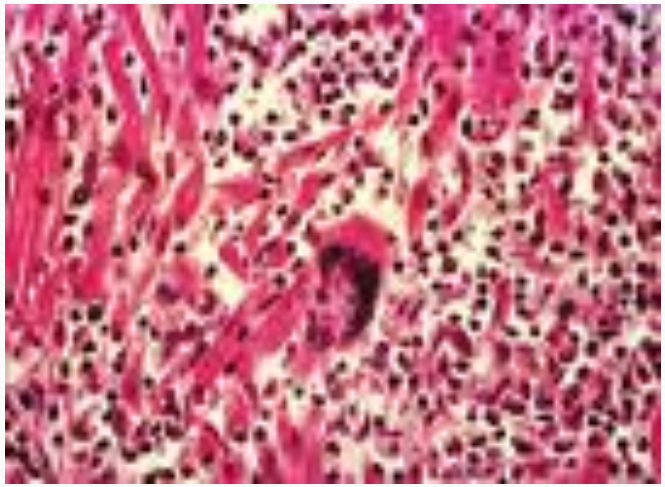
- Describe the epidemiology, risk factor for myocarditis.
- Explain the pathogenesis of myopericarditis.
- Differential between the various types of myocarditis and pericarditis.
- Name various etiological agents causing myocarditis and pericarditis.
- Describe the clinical presentation and differential diagnosis of myocarditis and pericarditis.
- Discuss the microbiological and non microbiological methods for diagnosis of myocarditis and pericarditis.
- Explain the management ,complication and prognosis of patient with myocarditis and/or pericarditis.

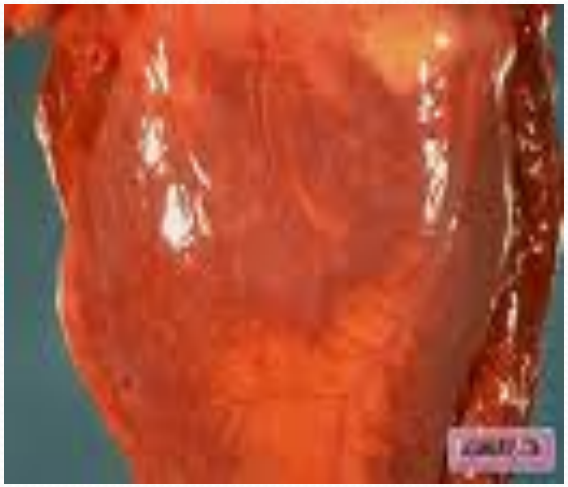
Myocarditis

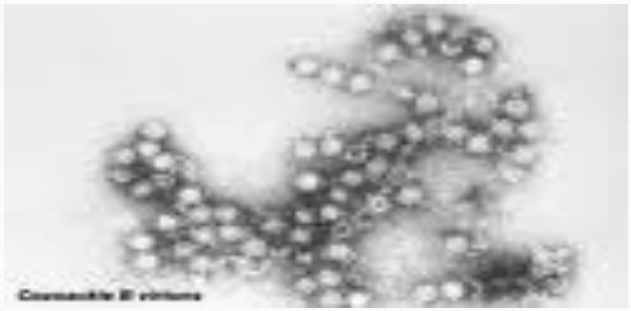
- **Myocarditis** : an inflammatory disease of the heart muscle.
- Mild & self-limited with few symptoms **OR** severe with progression to congestive heart failure & dilated cardiac muscle.
- localized **or** diffuse
- Myocarditis can be due to a variety of **infectious** and **non infectious** causes eg. toxins, drugs and hypersensitivity immune response.
- **Viral infection is the most common cause**



Myocarditis







Epidemiology ,Etiology and Risk Factors

- **Epidemiology** : no accurate estimate of incidence as many cases are mild & brief and diagnosis is not made.
- **Etiology : Coxsackie virus B** is the most common cause of myocarditis.

Other virus : Coxsackie virus A, Echoviruses, Adenoviruses ,Influenza, EBV, Rubella, Varicella, Mumps, Rabies, Hepatitis viruses and HIV.

Bacterial causes include *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, Syphilis ,Lyme disease or as a complication of bacterial endocarditis .

Etiology-continue

- Parasitic causes includes Chagas diseases, *Trichinella spiralis*, *Taxoplasma gondii* and *Echinococcus.*
- **Others organisms include: *Rickettsiae*, Fungi, *Chlamydia*, enteric pathogens, *Legionella* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis***.

- **Giant cell myocarditis** due to Thymoma, SLE (*systemic lupus erythromatosis*) or Thyrotoxicosis.

Infectious	Noninfectious
Viruses 1. Coxsackie B 2. HIV	**Systemic Diseases** 1. SLE 2. Sarcoidosis 3. Vasculities(Wegener's disease) 4. Celiac disease
Bacterial 1. *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* (diphtheria)	**Neoplastic infiltration**
Protozoan 1. *Trypanosoma cruzi* (Chagas disease)	**Drugs & Toxins** 1. Ethanol 2. Cocaine 3. Radiation 4. Chemotherapeutic agents - Doxorubicin
Spirochete 1. *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Lyme disease)	

Clinical presentation of myocarditis

- **Highly variable** :may occur days to weeks after onset of acute febrile illness or with heart failure without any known antecedent symptoms .
- Fever, headache, muscle aches, diarrhea, sore throat and rashes similar to most viral infections
- **Chest pain, arrhythmias ,sweating , fatigue and may present with congestive heart failure.**

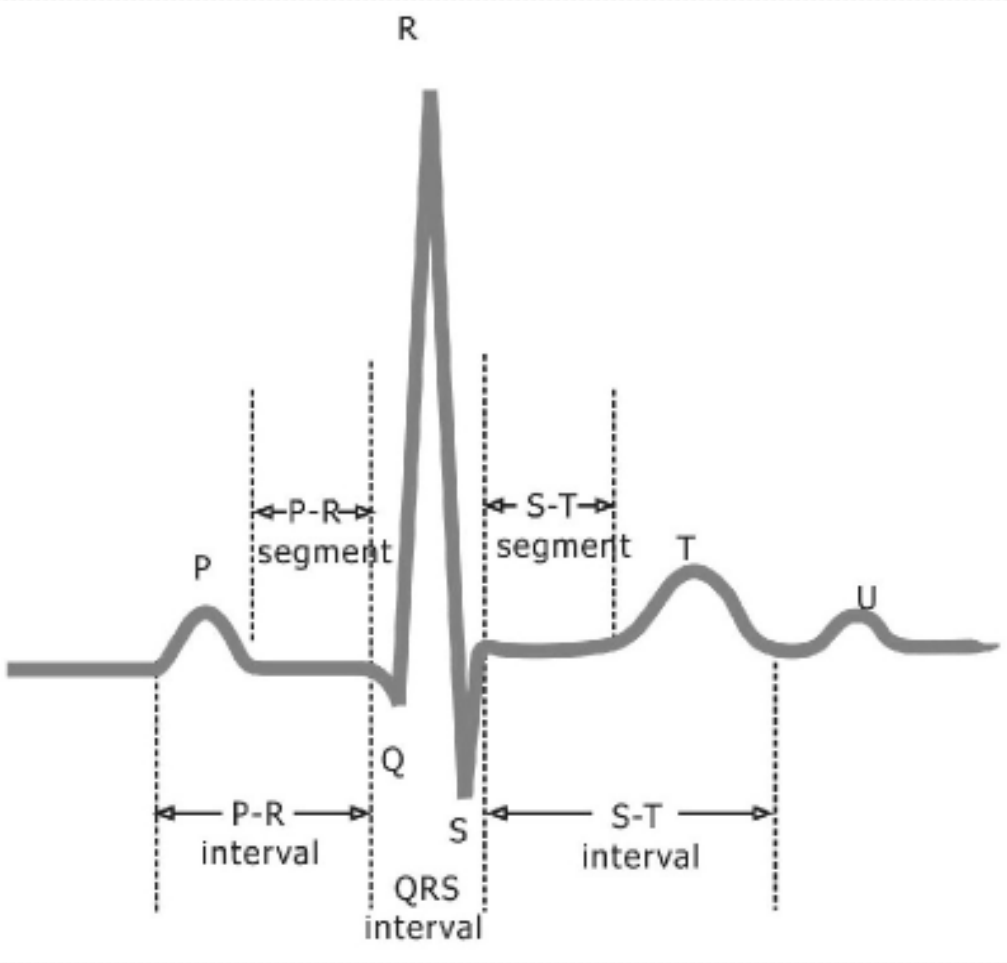
Differential Diagnosis

- Acute Myocarditis
- Vasculitis
- Cardiomyopathy (due to drugs **or** radiation)

Diagnosis of myocarditis

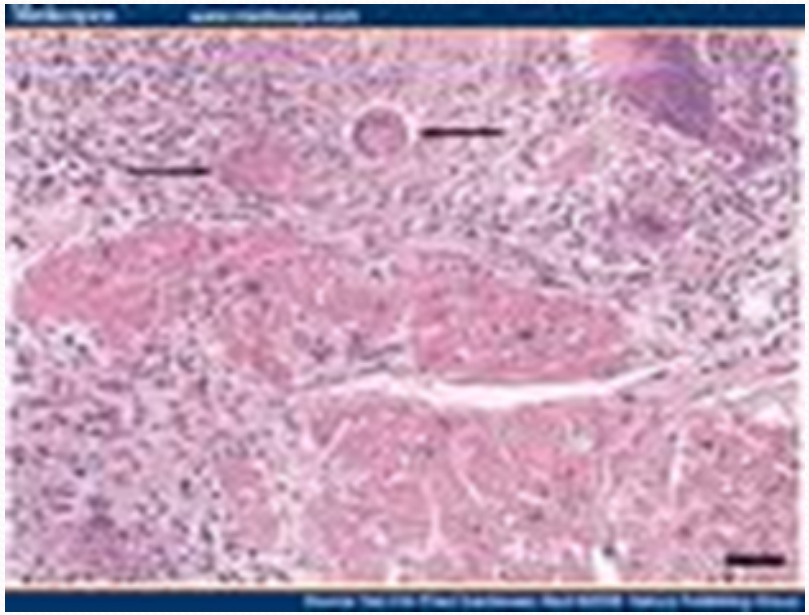
- WBCs, ESR, Troponin and CK-MB usually **elevated**
- **ECG** (nonspecific ST-T changes and conduction delays are common)
- **Blood culture**
- **Viral serology** and **other specific tests** for Lyme disease, diphtheria and Chagas disease may be indicated on a case by case basis.
- **Chest X-rays** : show cardiomegaly
- Radiology : **MRI** and **Echocardiogram**
- Heart muscle **biopsy** (for some cases)

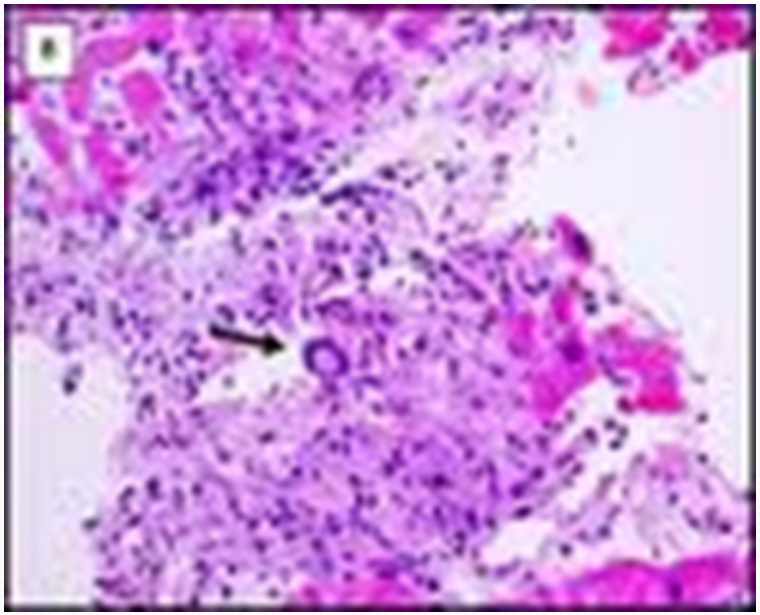
ECGs of normal heart



Endomyocardial diagnosis

Pathologic examination is not sensitive . It may reveal lymphocytic inflammatory response with necrosis. "**Giant cells" may be seen**.





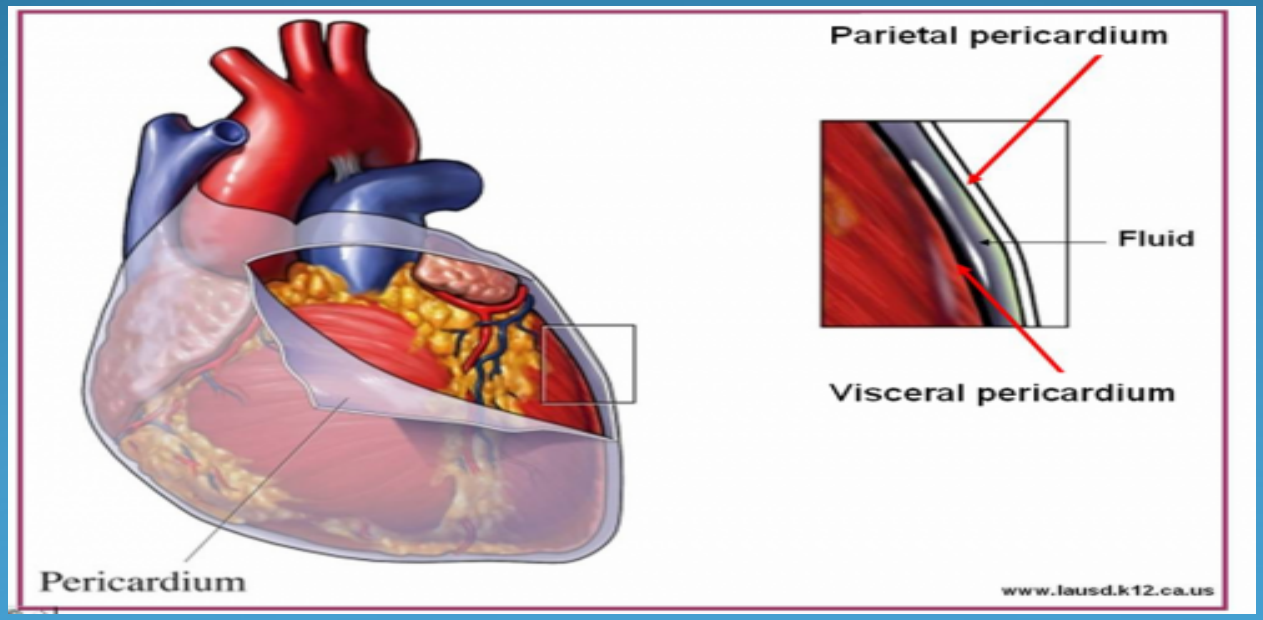
Management of myocarditis

- **Often supportive:** restricted physical activity in heart failure.
- Specific antimicrobial therapy is indicated when an infecting agent is identified.
- Treatment of heart failure arrhythmia
- Other drugs indicated in special situations like anticoagulant, NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) , steroid or immunosuppressive immunomodulatory agents.
- Heart transplant

Management of myocarditis

- Most cases of viral myocarditis are self limited.
- One third of the patients are left with lifelong **complications**, ranging from mild conduction defects to severe heart failure.
- Patient should be followed regularly every 1-3 months.
- **Sudden death may be the presentation of myocarditis in about 10% of cases.**

Acute Pericarditis



Pericarditis

- **Pericarditis** is an inflammation of the pericardium usually of infectious etiology (viruses, bacterial, fungal or parasitic)
- **Etiology :** (infectious and non-infectious).

Infectious causes :

Viral Pericarditis:

- Coxsackie virus A and B, Echovirus are the most common causes.
- Other viruses includes Herpes viruses, Hepatitis B , Mumps, Influenza, Adenovirus ,Varicella and HIV.

- **Bacterial Pericarditis** usually a complication of pulmonary infections (e.g. pneumonia ,empyema):

organisms :*S. pneumoniae*, ***M. tuberculosis***, *S. aureus, H. influenzae, K. pneumoniae , Legionella pneumophila,* ***Mycoplasma pneumoniae*** *& Chlamydia pneumoniae* .

HIV patients may develop pericardial effusions caused by: *M.tuberculosis* or *M. avium* complex.

- **Disseminated fungal infection** caused by **:** *Histoplasma*, *Coccidioides*.
- **Parasitic infections** eg. disseminated **toxoplasmosis**, contagious spread of *Entamoeba histolytica* - are rare causes.

Non-infectious pericarditis:

Causes:

- Immune mediated : rheumatic fever & SLE
- Miscellaneous : due to myocardial infarction , malignancy and uremia.

Pathophysiology

- **Contiguous spread**
  - lungs, pleura, mediastinal lymph nodes, myocardium, aorta, esophagus, liver.
- **Hematogenous spread**
  - septicemia, toxins, neoplasm, metabolic
- **Lymphangetic spread**
- **Traumatic or irradiation**

Pathophysiology

- Inflammation provokes fibrinous exudate with or without serous effusion
- The normal transparent and glistening pericardium is turned into a **dull, opaque, and "sandy" sac**
- Can cause pericardial scarring with adhesions and fibrosis.

Types of Pericarditis

- **Caseous Pericarditis** commonly **tuberculous** in origin.

- **Serous Pericarditis** due to **autoimmune** diseases (rheumatoid arthritis, SLE), **viral** infections
  - Transudative serous fluid

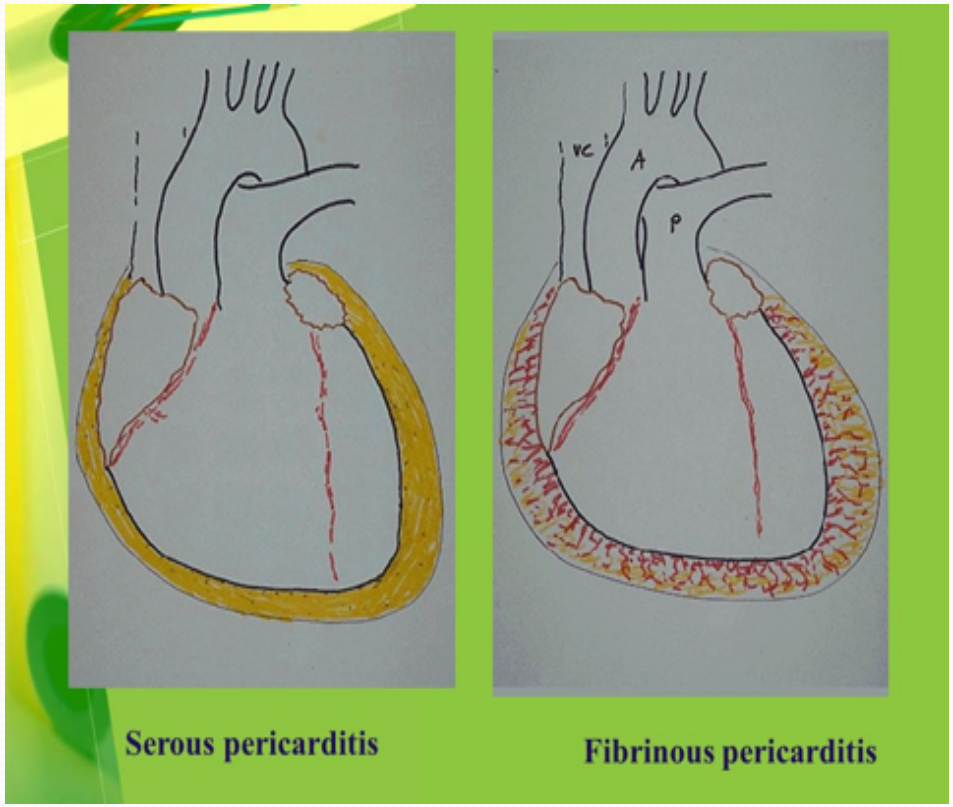
- **Fibrinous Pericarditis** due to acute MI, uremia, radiation
  - Fibrinous exudative fluid

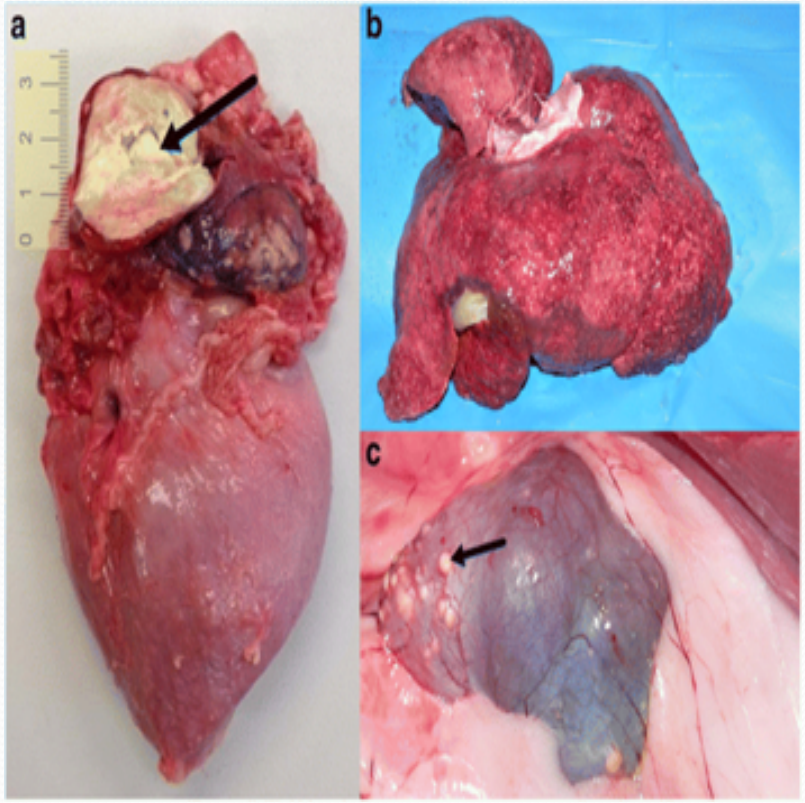
Types of Pericarditis

- **Purulent/Suppurative pericarditis** due to bacteria, fungi or parasites.
  - Purulent exudative fluid

- **Hemorrhagic pericarditis** usually caused by infection (e.g. TB) or malignancy
  - blood mixed with a fibrinous or suppurative effusion

Types of pericarditis:





Constrictive Pericarditis

causes:

- Idiopathic
- Radiotherapy
- Cardiac surgery
- Connective tissue disorders
- Dialysis
- **Bacterial infection** (viral, TB, fungal)

Clinical presentation of pericarditis

Acute pericarditis:

- **Sudden** pleuritic chest pain which is positional retrosternal l(relieved by setting forward)
- Dyspnea
- Fever
- **On examination** : Pericardial rub, exaggerated pulses , paradoxus JVP (*jugular venous pressure*) and tachycardia.
- As the pericardial pressure increases, palpitations , presyncope or syncope may occur.

Chronic pericarditis:

- Tuberculous pericarditis has **insidious** onset .

Tuberculous Pericarditis

- Incidence of pericarditis in patients with pulmonary TB ranges from 1 – 8 %
- Clinical findings: fever, pericardial friction rub, hepatomegaly
- Tuberculin skin test usually positive
- Fluid smear for acid fast bacilli (**AFB**) often negative
- Pericardial **biopsy** more definitive

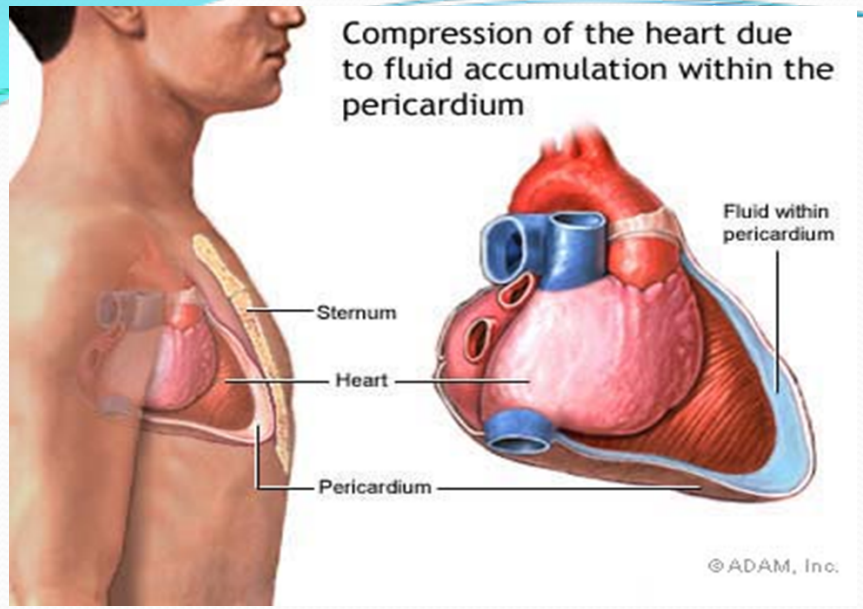
Acute Pericarditis

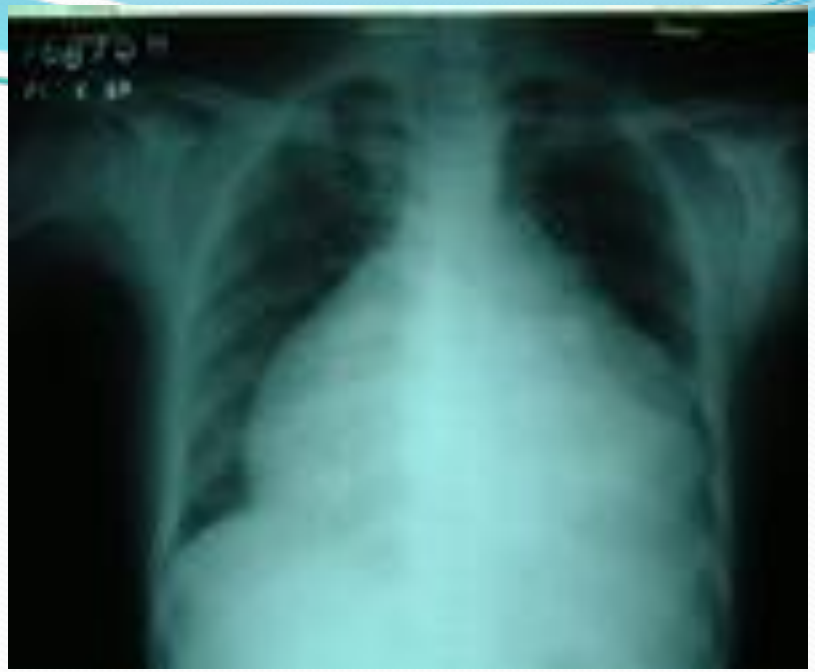
Differential Diagnosis

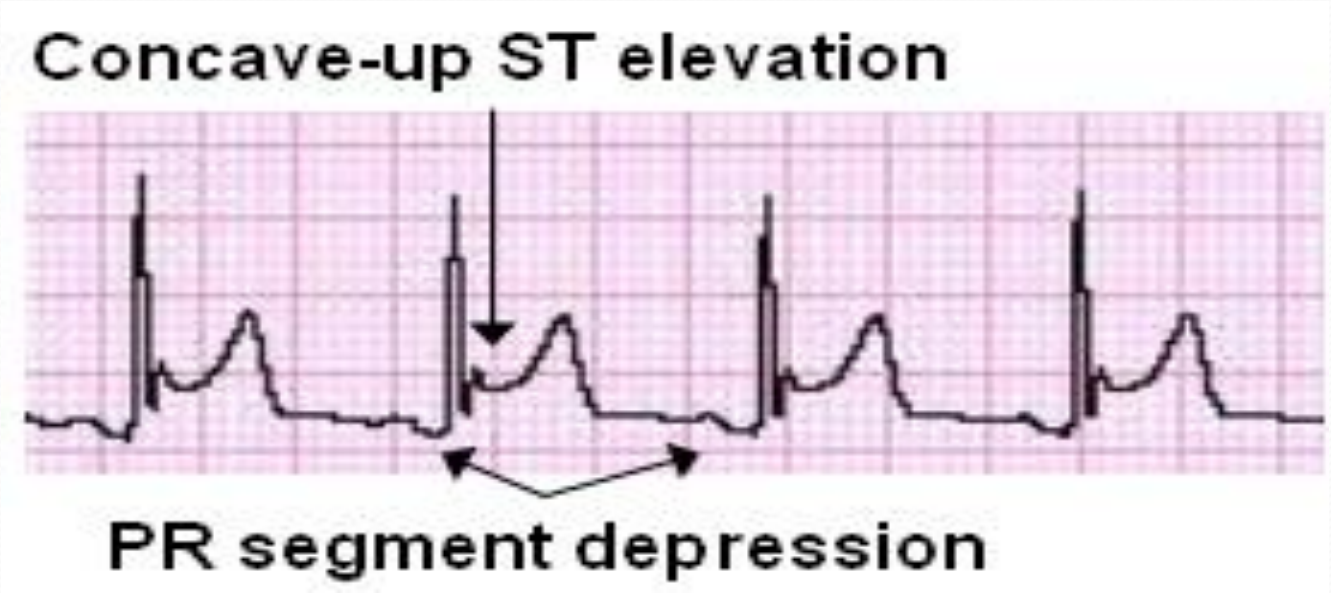
- Acute myocardial infarction
- Pulmonary embolism
- Pneumonia
- Aortic dissection

Investigations & Diagnosis

- **ECG** will show ST elevation, PR depression and T-wave inversion may occur later.
- Blood culture
- **Leukocytosis** and an elevated **ESR** are typical
- Other routine testing : **urea** and **creatinine**.
- **Tuberculin skin** test is usually positive in tuberculous pericarditis cases.
- **Chest x-ray** may show enlarged cardiac shadow or calcified pericardium and **CT** scan show pericardial thickening >5mm.
- Pericardial fluid or pericardial **biopsy** specimens for fungi.
- **Immunology /Serology** : Antinuclear antibody tests and Histoplasmosis complement fixation indicated in endemic area.


Compression of the heart due to fluid accumulation within the pericardium
Fluid within pericardium
Sternum
Heart
Pericardium
©ADAM, Inc.



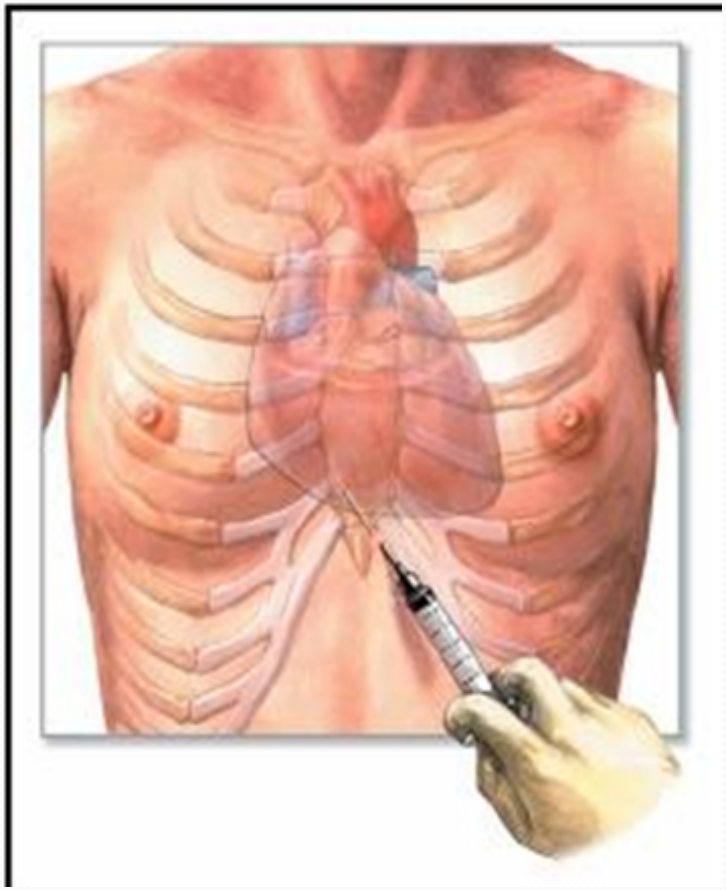

Concave-up ST elevation
PR segment depression

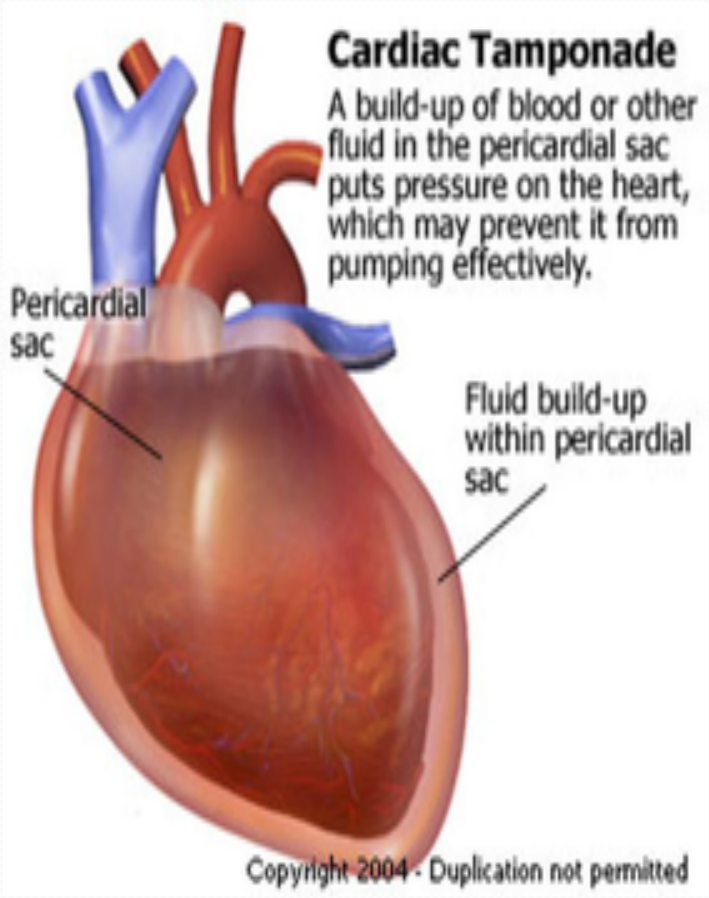
Management of pericarditis

- Management is largely supportive for cases of idiopathic and viral pericarditis including bed rest , NSAIDS and Colchicine.
- Corticosteroid use is controversial and anticoagulants usually contraindicated.
- Specific antibiotics must include activity against *S. aureus* and respiratory bacteria.
- **Antiviral:**

Acyclovir for *Herpes simplex* or *Varicella* . **Ganciclovir** for CMV .

Pericardiocentesis





Management of pericarditis

- **Pericardiocentesis** : a therapeutic procedure to remove fluid from the pericardium (to relief Tamponade) in severe cases with pericardial effusion.
- Patients who recovered should be observed for recurrence.
- Symptoms due to viral pericarditis usually subsided within one month.

Reference book

Ryan, Kenneth J. Sherris Medical Microbiology. Latest edition.

Mc Graw –Hill education