

Pericarditis

Pericarditis

Infection and inflammation may also affect the pericardium. Acute pericarditis usually occurs following a viral illness. Treatment is with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and bed rest (in case there is an underlying myocarditis). Acute purulent pericarditis is uncommon but requires urgent drainage and intravenous antibiotics, with attention to the underlying cause. Chronic pericarditis is an uncommon condition in which the pericardium becomes thickened and non-compliant. The heart cannot move freely and the stroke volume is reduced by the constrictive process. The central venous pressure is raised and the liver becomes congested. Peripheral oedema and ascites are also a feature. Treatment is surgical and is aimed at relieving the constriction.

Revision #1

Created 2025-12-31 15:22:14 UTC by Omar Ayman

Updated 2025-12-31 15:22:14 UTC by Omar Ayman